**METRO** / A17

**Antigambling czar's** bodyguards in hotel mauling might go free

**Senga is envoy to Iran after 2 yrs out in the cold**

By Norman Bordadora

YET ANOTHER RETIRED ARMED FORCES chief of staff has been given a prominent position in the Arroyo administration.

But unlike his peers, it took ex-AFP Chief of Staff Generino Senga two years to get a plum posting.

The Commission on Appointments (CA)

SENGA A11

**WORLD** / A20

**Putin says** US created Georgia conflict

**SUPER** / E1

**Ultraelectromagnetic dash** for an Eheads ticket; cheers to '90s music heroes

**NEWS** / A9

**Oil firms cut** fuel prices by P1/liter

PHILIPPINE DAILY
# INQUIRER
BALANCED NEWS, FEARLESS VIEWS

Saturday, August 30, 2008 ★★ 10 sections / Vol. 23 / No. 246 P18 www.inquirer.net

## Longest training for Pacquiao's 'greatest fight'

By Marc Anthony Reyes

MANNY PACQUIAO CALLS IT THE "biggest fight of my life." And because it is such, it will entail the longest preparations by the Filipino ring icon.

Pacquiao will fly to Freddie Roach's Wild Card gym in Los Angeles on Sept. 12, kicking off a 10-week training for the bout against Oscar de la Hoya on Dec. 6 at the MGM Grand in Las Vegas—a match that, this early, has been parcelled as the world's next "super fight."

LONGEST A6

## Cory says use people power to fight poverty

By Tina G. Santos

EVEN IN THE FACE OF A MAJOR ILLness, former President Corazon Aquino continues to be an inspiration.

Clad in her signature color yellow, Aquino underscored the importance of rekindling the spirit of partnership in addressing Asian poverty in a speech she delivered before "The Asia Forum" delegates, composed of present and past winners of the Ramon Magsaysay

CORY A4

CATCH AS CATCH CAN Life goes on in the midst of government-MILF clashes within the environs of Datu Piang, Maguindanao. With bikes in hand, children make a game of catching as many rice grains as they can to bring home while threshing is going on. Elsewhere in the conflict-affected areas, daily sales are down by much as 50 percent. (Story on Page A14.)

# Gov't junks MOA in all forms

## Obama proves no dream is too high

DENVER—BARACK OBAMA CAST his presidential nomination as proof that no dreams are too high, savoring a historic moment for himself and the United States before setting out on a difficult struggle to break another barrier by becoming the first black US president.

Obama's success in obtaining the Democratic nomination was indeed a remarkable achievement, reached despite the misgivings of some Americans uncomfortable with electing the son of an African immigrant—not "the typical pedigree," as he put it.

He used his acceptance speech at the Democratic National Convention in part to allay those concerns, to show Americans that he is one of them—not born of wealth or privilege, his gains made of hard work and sacrifice.

"This moment—this election—is our chance to keep, in the 21st Centu-

OBAMA A10

## At peace with Bill and Hillary, Obama goes after McCain

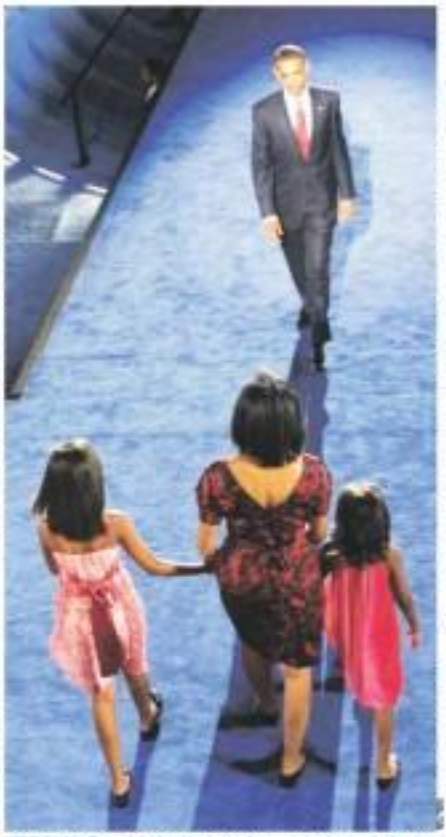
By Steve Holland

DENVER—DEMOCRATIC PRESIDENtial hopeful Barack Obama finally secured his convention swap from the Clintons on Thursday and opened the assault on Republican John McCain that Democratic leaders had been demanding.

**ANALYSIS**

Obama and his supporters spent the better part of two days of a four-day national convention dealing with the Clintons, Hillary and Bill, using up

AT PEACE A10



HE'S THE MAN The spotlight all over the world on Friday was on what was once believed to be the impossible dream: Black fulfilling in the White House. Sen. Barack Obama, with Michelle and daughters Sasha and Malia, may well be on their way to 1600 Pennsylvania Avenue.

## No case, Solgen argues, but SC justices warn RP can be sued in int'l court

By Leila B. Salaverria and Jerome Aning

THE GOVERNMENT WAS HARD-PRESSED TO DEFEND ITS position that a provisional agreement on ancestral domain with the secessionist Moro Islamic Liberation Front had no binding effect so it had no case to answer before the Supreme Court.

During arguments on the second day of hearings on the petitions against the proposed memorandum of agreement on ancestral domain (MOA), Solicitor General Agnes Devanadera found herself on the dock as various high court justices warned of the dangers in international law that the government has exposed the Philippines and the risk of dismembering the national territory because of the MOA.

At least two magistrates pointed out that by initialing the MOA, the government has bound itself to sign and how or if it uses the restraining order that the high court issued against it is lifted.

Devanadera said the high court should dismiss the petitions against the MOA, arguing that there was no more case to decide as the agreement would "not be signed in its present form or in any other form" and that it had been "set aside."

She initially told the high court that the government peace panel had no authority to sign the MOA so that their initialing it would have no binding effect. But she later modified that statement, explaining that what she meant was that the panel had no authority to sign a final peace agreement.

Devanadera argued that the government would not have been bound by the MOA as the document only contained consensus points for consultation, and these points would have had

GOV'T A6

## 'Smother' C. Mindanao with troops, says Roxas

By Nikko Dizon and Inquirer Mindanao

OPPOSITION LEADER MANUEL "MAR" Roxas has urged the military to "smother" violence-torn Central Mindanao with troops and set up security zones to protect villages before resuming peace talks with the Moro Islamic Liberation Front (MILF).

The Liberal Party senator made the call during a dinner with Inquirer editors and reporters on Thursday night, even as Defense Secretary Gilberto Teodoro Jr. rejected calls for an all-out war against the rebels, warning a full-scale offensive could provoke "a religious war which we do not want."

Roxas said there was a danger that violence in the affected provinces could escalate, noting that even the Ilaga—a Christian vigilante group—had threatened to retaliate against the rebels that pillaged villages in North Cotabato and Lanao del Norte earlier this month.

"The AFP must smother the area with government troops. If there are going to be vigilantes, in the end, the

SMOTHER A6

## Palace ₱230-B infra fund 'in aid of people, not election'

By Michael Lim Ubac

THE P230 BILLION THAT MALACAÑANG wants to spend for infrastructure next year is not an election "war chest" for administration officials running for office in the 2010 general elections.

"This is in aid of the people, not of elections. This is for development, and not for the 2010 polls," said Budget Secretary Rolando Andaya Jr.

Malacañang has submitted to Congress a P1.415-trillion proposed budget for 2009, out of which it proposes to spend P230 billion in infrastructure and public works projects, including roads, bridges, airports, railways, school buildings and waterworks systems. (See related story on Page A18.)

By comparison, the government's infrastructure funds for 2008 amounted to P122.2 billion.

Of the P230 billion proposed infrastructure spending for 2009, P147.3 billion will be spent by the national government, P32.1 billion by government-owned and -controlled corporations and P50 billion by local governments.

Not included in the tally are ongoing and future projects that are being funded or will be funded through various joint venture schemes with the private sector, Andaya said.

PALACE A15

## Wer na u? Yo, RP texters send 600M messages a day!

By Rica T. Olchondra

IF TEXTING WERE AN OLYMPIC event, we would have brought home the gold.

The average mobile phone user in the Philippines sends around 15 text messages a day, according to telecom-

WER NA U A15

WEATHER FORECAST

FORECAST: Visayas and Mindanao will experience mostly cloudy skies with scattered rainshowers and thunderstorms. The rest of the country will have partly cloudy to cloudy skies with isolated rainshowers or thunderstorms mainly in the afternoon or evening.

| | | | |
|---|---|---|---|
| Metro Manila | Partly Cloudy | Kalibo/Boracay | Partly Cloudy |
| Baguio | Partly Cloudy | Davao | Partly Cloudy |
| Tuguegarao | Partly Cloudy | Cebu | Partly Cloudy |
| Laoag | Partly Cloudy | Tacloban | Mostly Cloudy |
| Cabanatuan | Partly Cloudy | San Jose/Mindoro | Partly Cloudy |
| Iloilo/Bacolod | Partly Cloudy | Zamboanga | Partly Cloudy |
| Legaspi | Partly Cloudy | Cagayan de Oro | Mostly Cloudy |
| Tacloban | Partly Cloudy | Davao | Mostly Cloudy |

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# Second FRONTPAGE

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6/42 SUERTRES

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(As of August 27, 2008)

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MEGALOTTO 6/45

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# Tagaytay 5: Victory for human rights

By Nita Carbonilla Colleja, Inquirer Southern Luzon, TJ Burgonio and Marlon Ramos

CALAMBA CITY—THE HUMAN RIGHTS GROUP Karapatan hailed the release of five men accused of being communist guerrillas after the court's dismissal of the "trumped-up rebellion raps" filed against them.

"This is a victory for human rights," said Ruth Cervantes, Karapatan public information officer.

Aris Sarmiento, Raul Hugan, Edel Custodio, Michael Masayes and Rico Thaños, collectively known as the "Tagaytay 5," were released from prison at about 2:15 p.m. on Thursday after the Regional Trial Court of Tagaytay City junked the rebellion case that hanged over their heads and ordered their release.

The five were rounded up while riding a car in Tagaytay City in April 2006 on suspicion they were communist guerrillas.

"The stroke of the judge's pen is a vindication of our conviction that those who work for a better society must not be criminalized and must be set free," Cervantes said.

She said her group welcomed Tagaytay 5 to their newfound freedom and urged them to file criminal charges against state security forces that abducted them, kept them incommunicado and detained them despite their innocence.

"Human rights violators continue to be considered cadres this regime and it is justified to fight back and continue impunity," Cervantes said.

Commission on Human Rights chair Leila de Lima echoed Karapatan's, advising the Tagaytay 5 to sue the policemen who arrested and detained them.

"Their rights were clearly violated. Hold them accountable, also file not just criminal charges, but also civil charges," she said.

She counter charges, Dr Lina said, would serve to hold back the commission of similar human rights violations in the future.

"This is also a further deterrent to the commission of human rights violations against activists, urban poor and detainees," she said.

Members of the Tagaytay 5 themselves voiced yesterday that the series of legal setbacks the government had sustained in dealing with critics of President Macapagal-Arroyo might lead to the revival of the anti-subversion law to silence militant organizations.

A day after their release, Sarmiento, Custodio and Hugan took turns in assailing the police and other government agencies they held as responsible for their two-year imprisonment.

"The Muñoz in the DOJ [Department of Justice], in collusion with the Kamikazes in the military, tried vainly to legitimize classic illegal acts ... by charging us with a non-bailable rebellion charge," Sarmiento said from a prepared statement during a news conference in Quezon City.

# Palace: 4.6% growth still respectable

By Michael Lim Ubac

THE 4.6-PERCENT GROSS domestic product (GDP) recorded in the second quarter is "still respectable given the threats to the global economy," Malacañang said yesterday.

Presidential Spokesperson Jesus Dureza said the economic slowdown did not come as a surprise to the Arroyo administration.

"In a larger view, our growth output only mirrors what the rest of major economies in the world are experiencing due to high food and oil prices which induced inflation and held back consumer demand," said Dureza.

He said the government was addressing the impact of these soaring commodity prices by accelerating expenditures on pro-poor programs while curbing back on non-essential ones.

"These measures and other reforms laid by President Arroyo, which kept the country on an even keel in spite of global factors, are part of the pump-priming activity of the government to generate jobs and demand for goods and services," he said.

Deputy Spokesperson Lorelei Fajardo said the slowdown of economic growth was a "direct result of the public's reaction to the market."

"People tended to spend wisely and used their resources on important things, spending more on the essentials rather than luxury items," she said.

Fajardo revealed that government was poised to continuously execute infrastructure programs and other economic activities to create more opportunities for the people to get jobs and earn more, thus increasing public expenditure and investment.

"We expect growth to recover as fuel and food prices stabilize. Government will keep monitoring the continued effect of prices on our people and will institute such measures to are necessary to help alleviate their effects on our spending public," she said.

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# Release from prison inspires poetry

By Marlon Ramos

AS SOON AS HE BOARDED THE BUS of his impending release from prison on Thursday, Ismil Pinpin hurriedly looked for a pen and paper to compose a poem.

He felt the need to quickly put the "surreal news" into verses "so I would capture it and save it forever," he said.

Getting a small notebook, Pinpin jotted down his thoughts about his and the four other members of the Tagaytay 5's story—how they were unjustly accused of being communist rebels and unlawfully jailed for two years and four months.

In a few minutes, he had already finished the first lines of his literary piece, "Walang Lagalag ng Kaisipan [Loosely The Law Fling of the Fettered]," which he called an ode to the group's 666 days inside a 28-square-meter prison cell.

Yesterday, Pinpin cited initially to read the poem during a news conference in Quezon City session hall, but his feminine soul bid [inaudio were warmly welcomed by their relatives, friends and fellow activists.

"It was the first poem I composed after serving time in prison. I published it before I came here. Finally I can go back to helping farmers in Cavite and find time to develop my skills as a poet," Pinpin later told the inquirer.

In the 33-line poem, Pinpin let out his disgust over how the Cabuntoc police and state prosecutors conspired to produce a sham witness in a bid to pin them for allegedly planning to overthrow the government.

A Tagaytay court ordered the police to release Pinpin and his companions, saying they were jailed for a "manufactured crime."

### Helped him keep his sanity

Even before his detention in Camp Vicente Lim in Calamba City, Pinpin, who had been a fellow of the University of the Philippines' Writing Workshop in 1999, had already published some of his works in a collection titled, "Tagumang Nibing Tugtog [Voices Pitched Low]."

He said he learned to convey his anger and depression through poetry while inside the jail. It also helped him keep his sanity, he added.

"Aside from quenching my thirst for artistic freedom, writing poems also allowed me to chronicle my experiences inside the jail," he said.

"I also maintained a journal where I put all my thoughts and anger."

With the help of the artist group Kilometro 64, Artists for the Renewal of Gloria (Arroyo Clarin) and Southern Tagalog Exposure, Pinpin was able to publish the poems he wrote while in detention.

Titled "Mga Tula sa Libingan ng mga Buhay [Poems at the Graveyard of the Living]," the folio composed of the 15 poems he composed as a detainee.

But Pinpin admitted that his skilful play of Tagalog words in his poems had missed out his folk.

He said that on the first night of their abduction, his police captors challenged him to recite a poem to prove that he was only a student and writer for the Cavite-based Kalipunan ng mga Samahang Magsasaka sa Bukid, and not a communist rebel.

The poem, which he later titled "Hinuhugasan," was a courageous and witty attempt to describe their condition at the hands of their abductors.

"You've really good. But that will be your last performance," Pinpin recalled his police abductors as telling him.

"At least they applauded me," he said.

## Vernique

Sin and Drugs and Rock n' Roll

Catch a glimpse of Vernique—the notorious bad ass rock n' roll band fronted by five mesmerizing misfits: Edward (vocals), Andrew (guitar), Zobe (bass), Tope (drums), and Fabian (guitar). Five rock n' roll outlaws with unmistakable onstage performance fueled by absolute vibrant, angst, lust, betrayal, extreme decadence and danger. With their unmatched style and stimulating unique sound built by life on the edge, Vernique could inspire a religious devotion, a riot, or both. And from day one, Vernique were destined to redefine gritty rock history and put an end to the current dreary music scene.

On **August 30, 2008** (Saturday) Vernique will be performing at:
**Days Bar Kuta** – 17 Rosario Drive Quezon City (from 9:00 pm to 10:30 pm)
"Days Bar Kuta offers a relaxing ambience both indoor and outdoor, vip rooms and dedicated circles at reasonable prices."
**Bel-Air Resto Bar** – located at fantastic cubao area (from 10:30pm onwards)

# Fil-Am gets 3 years for hate e-mail

CLEVELAND—A MAN OF FILIPINO descent who wrote racially hateful letters and e-mails to black and mixed-race men, including Cleveland Browns running back Jamal Lewis and New York Yankees shortstop Derek Jeter, was sentenced Tuesday to three years and 10 months in prison.

Jared Rosen apologized for his behavior to federal court, saying he never meant to hurt anybody. He said he sent the threatening letters because a black man "broke" the girl friend he planned to marry.

Rosen had faced up to 10 years in prison. He pleaded guilty in May to six counts of mailing threatening communications and two counts of threatening interstate communications.

Prosecutors said Rosen, now more than 200 pounds heavier, sent letters to Black or mixed-race men even with white women.

The 41-year-old, who lived in the Cleveland suburbs with his parents, sent threatening communications to high school, college and professional athletes, coaches, celebrities, musicians, news anchors, journalists, police departments and lawyers, according to his plea deal.

FBI agents arrested Rosen in March after reading e-mails sent from a public library.

AP

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# Longest training for Pacquiao's 'greatest fight'

From page A1

"This is my greatest challenge," said Pacquiao during yesterday's teleconference formally announcing the projected $100-million fight. "When I take that walk to the ring in Sept[ember], I will carry all the people of the Philippines—the entire country—on my shoulders."

De La Hoya, who has spent most of his career burning down—and often beating—the sport's biggest names, will also put in a lot of work to prepare against Pacquiao.

"I have to find a way to increase my speed," De La Hoya said. "We've done months away, and we have to figure out quick how we're going to neutralize him. It's going to be an explosive fight. We've got to fight in the center of the ring."

## $38-million share

"I have an intention of taking it easy in the gym because this will be the fastest, strongest southpaw I've ever faced."

Pacquiao stands to earn anywhere between $35 to 38 million from his cut of the pay-per-view pie. That, plus a guaranteed purse still being negotiated, will make the match the biggest ever for the reigning WBC lightweight champion.

"I promise I will fight with all of my heart and that I will give everything I have," added Pacquiao, 29. "I am faster and stronger than him and I'm also younger. He's bigger in height but I feel I'm stronger and it's going to be a great fight."

Known for his relentless boxing style, the current pound-for-pound champion has a string of famed Mexican victims under his belt, including Alberto Antonio Barrera, Juan Manuel Marquez and Erik Morales.

## Latines for Pacman

In his last fight, Pacquiao dethroned former lightweight king David Diaz, an honorary son of Mexican descent.

That prompted De La Hoya, an American-born to Mexican parents, to say that he will be seeking vengeance against the Mexican contender.

Interestingly, though, legendary Mexican fighter Julio Cesar Chavez said in an interview with local reporters over that Latinos would "go with Pacquiao" in the match. Chavez was hoping to get his son, Julio Cesar Jr., against De La Hoya.

Pacquiao proudly spends eight full weeks of training under Roach, who has earlier promised to mop up the sharpest fight plan possible for the award.

But enraged against the "Golden Boy," Pacquiao is burning an atom reserved in his preparations, especially because his foe is not taking him lightly.

"Manny Pacquiao is considered the best fighter [in boxing today and I always want to fight the best," said De La Hoya, who has come suddenly decided not to talk about his planned retirement.

"My focus is on my training and my next fight," he added. "I'm not going to talk to Golds about retirement. We'll see how I feel after this fight. For now I have to focus on my training."

## No farewell yet

Though he has repeatedly said the Dec. 6 fight will be his swan song, De La Hoya fueled questions about his supposed farewell performance, suggesting instead that he is still hoping to forge a rematch with rival Floyd Mayweather Jr., who beat him the last time they fought.

De La Hoya, who last fought in the ageing 147-lbs catch weight when he downed Arturo Gatti in 2003, is expected to climb the ring at 160 lbs, nearly 10 lbs heavier than Pacquiao, who at 5-foot-6 also surrenders a four-inch height disadvantage.

Pacquiao is expected to weigh in at 143 and climb the ring at 138.

"I am glad we were able to make this fight happen because while Pacquiao is at the pinnacle of his success and has defeated all of the top fighters he has faced, I am going to show the world that it stops with me," De La Hoya said.

"Dec. 6 can't get here soon enough."

## 'Loudest ding in the pound'

Time to his winning ambition, De La Hoya even agreed to the use of eight-ounce gloves, something that could work to the favor of Pacquiao, who is known for his relentless hand speed and punching power.

Remember, when fists never bought above the 120-lbs mark, in running off a masterful demolition of Diaz in June.

The jaw-breaking southpaw rose from 130 lbs to win four titles in four different weight classes (WBC featherweight, IBF super featherweight, WBC super featherweight and current WBC lightweight). He also won the Ring Magazine feather-weight crown after beating Rowena in 2001.

De La Hoya has the distinction of taking on the best pound-for-pound boxer available and was famously quoted: "I want the loudest and the biggest ding in the pound."

## Pay-per-view blockbuster

De La Hoya has won the WBO super featherweight, IBF lightweight, WBC super lightweight, WBC welterweight, WBC super welter, and WBO middleweight titles to demonstrate the sport is now devoid of an A-list heavyweight.

De La Hoya (38-3-0, 30 KOs) charged the fight's stakes on Thursday when he acknowledged he wasn't sure he would retire afterward.

He had repeatedly said he would quit boxing after this year, but his inability to land a rematch with Mayweather in September might have altered his plans.

"Let's just say my foot got caught in the door," De La Hoya said.

Given De La Hoya's worldwide popularity and Pacquiao's (47-3-2, 28 KOs) fanatical following in his homeland, the fight seems likely to challenge the pay-per-view records set by De La Hoya's fight with Mayweather.

"I know some people say that it's a very easy fight for Oscar, but I always do my job in the ring, and I'll do my best to give a good fight and to win this fight," said Pacquiao.

## Too quick

De La Hoya claimed he got extra motivation for the fight from Roach. Pacquiao's longtime trainer who lifted to for Floyd Mayweather to tie De La Hoya's corner last year. Roach was eager to see Pacquiao take the fight, noting Pacquiao was too quick for the 35-year-old Golden Boy.

"I felt challenged, especially from an expert trainer like that," De La Hoya said. "He knows my style, and he knows Manny's, and for him to say that was a big challenge."

If De La Hoya remains primarily committed to retirement, a fight with Pacquiao isn't an easy way to go out. And De La Hoya has surely avoided major challenges in his 16-year professional career since winning a gold medal at the Barcelona Olympics.

"I think my legacy is already assured, you can't take away what I have achieved in the ring," he said. With reports from AP and Reuters


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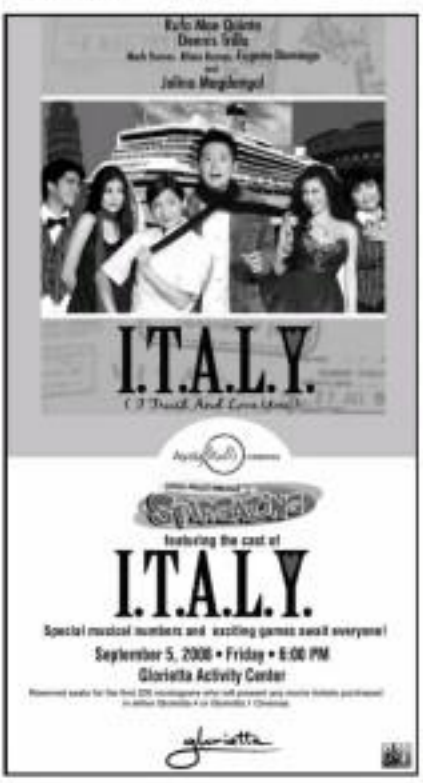

ASIA'S 2008 RAMON MAGSAYSAY AWARDEES (L-r from left) Ahmad Syafii Maarif of Indonesia; Nnamdi Odogwu of Sri Lanka; Arvind Kejriwal of India; Thanhdhat Jhaveri of Thailand; former Philippine President Corazon Aquino; keynote speaker; Dr. Jose Rizal of the Philippines; and Mitsuhiro Ishii of Japan, during the conference of 2008 Ramon Magsaysay Awards held at the Philippine International Convention Center in Pasay City on Friday, with the theme of "Changing Asia: Forging Partnerships, Building Sustainability."

# Cory says use people power to fight poverty

From page A1

Award, Asia's version of the Nobel Prize.

The forum is a two-day international conference with the theme, "Changing Asia: Forging Partnerships, Building Sustainability," part of the Ramon Magsaysay Award Foundation's 50th year celebration.

"The past two decades have seen more people lifted out of poverty in Asia than in any other region and in any other time in history. This has kindled high hopes that Asia holds the best chance of meeting its share of the Millennium Development Goals and of eradicating poverty within the next half century," the 4th delegates yesterday at the PICC in Pasay City.

Looking a bit stronger and healthier since she was diagnosed with cancer months ago, Aquino's face bore no sign of the difficulties she went through after two months of treatment.

Speaking in a soft voice, the tortured clan this must look to the work of RM becomes an inspiration to create significant and meaningful changes in their respective communities and countries.

This year's awardees included the Philippines' Grace Padaca, for governmental service, and the Center for Agriculture and Rural Development Mutually Beneficiary Institutions (CARD MBI) for public service.

The other awardees were: Thanthat Jhaveri of Thailand, also for public service; Prakash Amte and Mandakini Amte of India for community leadership; Ahmad Syafii Maarif of Indonesia for peace and international understanding; Alex Ishii of Japan for journalism, literature, and creative communication arts; and Nnamdi Odogwu of Sri Lanka for emergent leadership.

Aquino, herself an MM awardee (for international understanding, 1998), said reducing poverty would require more than just economic growth.

"Such growth needs to be anchored on a program that would enable people to become economically productive citizens who would be capable of consuming a sustainable future," she said.

"Only needs innovative solutions that use the collective power of its people to effect lasting change. The Philippines takes pride in having popularized the term 'people power' and it has been our dream to harness that force to eradicate poverty in my country," she added.

Since 1986, Aquino said she has been looking for ways to make use of "people power" as a force to eliminate poverty.

Early on, my bias in this regard had been on organizing community self- help or nongovernment organizations and people's organizations and on supporting the development of cooperatives and other avenues for collective action," she revealed.

## Micro-enterprise

Aquino said she was puzzled to convene a private sector social conference to explore the possibility of harnessing people power against poverty through micro-enterprise.

"This social connection gave birth to a movement called #micro[M], which literally stands for micro-enterprise, the development of which lies at the heart of our 'people-powered anti-poverty strategy," she said.

Dr. another level, Aquino said the movement would harness people power by bringing various stakeholders together to eventually enable our people to empower themselves in one use of poverty through their own efforts.

"Do yes another level, #micro[M] is a way of taking people power where we had originally hoped it would go—a force that would rekindle our faith in the Filipino and our ability to ourselves as a people," she said.

## Inspired by ordinary Pinoys

According to Aquino, she draws inspiration from ordinary Filipinos, who send money to some of the poorest communities in the country, become less than many of the rich and powerful in the society.

She was referring, in particular, to the mothers "trying to carve out an honest living and silently working themselves out of poverty, saving up so your their children to school and slowly improving their quality of life."

At the end of her speech, Aquino said she was certain that her husband, former Sen. Benigno "Ninoy" Aquino Jr., would applaud PinoyME and similar initiatives across Asia to empower the poor and disenfranchised.

"After all, his life had been inspired by the example of two great leaders, Ramon Magsaysay and Mahatma Gandhi. Ninoy imbibed the spirit of genuine service to the people."

Aquino declined to answer questions from the media and was overheard saying: "I felt weird because this was the longest speech I've made since I became sick."

# Qantas probe: Oxygen tank did it

CANBERRA, AUSTRALIA—AIR SAFETY investigators confirmed Friday that an exploding oxygen cylinder ripped a gaping hole in a Qantas jet's fuselage midflight last month, but said they were no closer to solving the mystery of why the crash failed.

Julian Walsh, acting executive director of the Australian Transport Safety Bureau, released an interim report Friday on an ongoing investigation of the emergency aboard a Boeing 747-400 aircraft, carrying 365 people, over the South China Sea on July 23 almost an hour after takeoff from Hong Kong.

The crew quickly descended to an altitude of 10,000 feet (3,000 meters), where oxygen masks were no longer needed, and safely landed in Manila despite the loss of crucial flight instruments. No one was injured.

### Exam completed

The jet remains in Manila, where a physical examination of clues in the cause of the near-disaster has been completed.

Friday's report confirmed early findings that one of seven emergency oxygen cylinders below the cabin floor had exploded, causing the emergency. Walsh said the investigation is now focused on pinpointing the cause.

He said the investigation will likely continue for months and declined to say whether finding the cause was possible.

"There's nothing at this stage that the ATSB can identify that could have been done to prevent this because we don't really know why the bottle failed—and that's the key question for the investigation," Walsh told reporters.

### Difficult

"We haven't got a bottle to work on. Let's not underestimate how difficult it will be for us to get to the bottom of this," he added.

The 26-pound (12-kilogram) steel cylinder, pressurized to 1,800 pounds per square inch (12,755 kilopascals), "sustained a failure that allowed a sudden and complete release of the pressurized contents," Walsh said.

The explosion blew a hole in the fuselage 6.5 feet wide and 3 feet high, the report said. Bits of the cylinder rocketed up through the cabin floor, shearing off an emergency exit door handle and narrowly missing a crew seat before settling the cabin void. It simultaneously shot through the hole it created in the cabin floor, the report said.

All of the cylinder's remains dropped through the ruptured fuselage and disappeared into the sea.

Walsh said the cylinder had undergone its regulation three-yearly safety inspection shortly before it was installed in the jet six weeks before it exploded.

The report said investigators intend to track down from its US manufacturer other cylinders from the same batch released in 1990 for testing.

Qantas released a statement, backing the preliminary report's findings that an exploding bottle had caused the emergency.

The jet will be repaired for less than 10 million Australian dollars ($8.6 million) and will be back in service by November, the statement said. AP

# House OKs Joe de V bill for political party reforms

By Norman Bordadora and Kristine L. Alave

THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES ON Wednesday approved on third reading the political party reform bill that seeks to level the playing field among parties and on penalize turncoatism among elected officials.

House Bill No. 3603 or the proposed Act Strengthening the Political Party System calls for, among others, a state subsidy for political parties.

"The purpose of this is to prevent corruption or to reduce political corruption and money politics," said Pangasinan Rep. Jose de Venecia, who authored the measure in the 12th and in the current 14th Congress.

He welcomed the development on Thursday and expressed confidence that the Senate would, this time, approve the House bill's counterpart measure in the chamber.

"[This should] prevent the entry of drug lords and gambling lords in local and national elections," De Venecia said, referring to campaign contributions of crime groups in exchange for political protection after the elections.

Bayan Muna Rep. Teodoro Casiño, one of the handful who voted against the bill on third reading, said if the bill becomes law, it would only benefit the parties that already have a stronghold in Congress.

"The bill ... establishes a state subsidy fund which will actually mandate taxpayers to shoulder the expenses and operations of 'accredited' political parties. This is contrary to the real state of Philippine politics," Casiño said.

He added that the criteria for parties to be accredited appear to favor parties that are already well-represented in Congress.

### Avenue for graft

"If this bill is passed into law, the operations, development and other expenses of political parties like Lakas [Lakas-Christian Muslim Democrats] and Kampi [Kabalikat ng Malayang Pilipino], will be funded by taxpayers' money. This will be another scenic... that will be riddled by graft," Casiño added.

The Senate bill also drew flak from Church and election officials, who said the proposal would be a burden to the public.

Commission on Elections (Comelec) Chair Jose Melo pressured said funds for election campaign should instead be used for social services.

"That should be the last priority. It should be put on the back burner," Melo said in a telephone interview. "We already have too many politicians. And we have to pay them what they want?"

The House of Representatives passed the bill on Wednesday night, approved by 122 lawmakers, with no objections, although over 180 congressmen were absent during the voting.

Melo expressed fears that it would increase the number of nuisance candidates.

### Penalizing turncoats

The bill also penalizes political turncoatism or the act of ideologically changing political parties to suit one's interests.

Under the proposal, incumbents are deemed to have forfeited their office if they change party affiliations during their term of office. They are also disqualified from running for any elective position in the next succeeding elections and prohibited from being appointed or holding any position in any public or government office for three years after the expiration of their term.

The turncoats are also directed to refund any and all resources received from their political party "plus a 20 percent surcharge thereon."

# Dureza says gov't to refocus talks on 'disarmament, demobilization, rehabilitation'

By Christine Avendaño and Edmar C. Tandoc Jr.

PEACE SECRETARY JESUS Dureza said the government now intends to "refocus" the peace talks with the secessionist Moro Islamic Liberation Front on the issues of "disarmament, demobilization and rehabilitation" after it set aside the contentious proposed memorandum of agreement on ancestral domain.

Dureza confirmed Solicitor General Agnes Devanadera's statements at the Supreme Court yesterday that Malacañang would no longer sign the MOA-AD whatever the high court decides on the petitions against the MOA.

He said the government was now working under the MOA and that "no matter what the Supreme Court will ultimately decide, the government will not sign the MOA."

"There's never issues, procedures that were not followed," the source said, noting that the President had mentioned this again during the meeting on Thursday and that she was "quite informed."

Asked whether the presidential instructions that were not followed had to do with the issues that Executive Secretary Eduardo Ermita cited in his report last that needed to be addressed in the MOA by the government and the MILF.

### Terms not agreeable to MILF

Ermita last week said that among the issues that needed to be reexamined were the language used in the MOA in he noted that the government peace panel "accepted using terms that are not agreeable as much to the other panel (MILF) such as the terms 'associative' and 'aspiration' and enabling law, the use of the term ancestral government is ancestral government."

The source said the government peace panel may not have heeded the President's instructions "beyond limit."

Chief Presidential Legal Counsel Sergio Apostol said the government peace panel was "given authority to negotiate but not full authority to sign."

Apostol said the document was lawful because the panel "had no authority to sign."

But he said the panel was not liable for anything because in the first place it was signing of the MOA took place.

### 'Ad-hoc-cracy'

Asked why foreign Secretary Alberto Romulo was in Malaysia earlier this month to witness the signing of the MOA-AD, Apostol said: "Maybe he was just there to satisfy his curiosity."

The government's declaration that it was "setting aside" the MOA drew dismayed reactions from opposition senators.

"This is an irresponsible ad hoc-cracy on such an important matter that affects the integrity of the republic and has caused about 300 deaths, countless casualties and nearly 200,000 evacuees," said Sen. Manuel Roxas, who is one of the presidential aspirants in the Supreme Court's ruling to junk the MOA.

He said it was not enough for the government to declare the MOA as having been set aside, the high court should still rule on the MOA's constitutionality so that "it can never be used against the republic."

Sen. Aquilino Pimentel Jr. said the declaration was "an admission that they (the government) took the illness for a cold."

This turnaround showed that the administration "has no strategic planning (and) has no think-tank it can rely on to advance the national interest."

### Flip-flopping

Given the changing and conflicting positions of the administration on the agreement in the past few weeks, Sen. Francis Escudero said: "Is that them (GRP) all answer?"

He said in a text message that the "flip-flopping" of the government on the agreement "is what caused the war in Mindanao."

Roxas said the government's position was "insufficient to protect the country because it is unfavorable to some. Thus, it can be revised in the future."

He explained that if the MOA would not be declared unconstitutional, the MILF can use it as a reference point in future peace talks as well as a political document in international bodies in order for the country as emerging on its own.

Sen. Alan Peter Cayetano said that while the government's junking of the MOA will "calm some nerves, what people want is a categorical statement from the government on how they will deal with the MILF (and) how it will finally stop the new cycle of violence with new dominant armed groups."

### 'Hidden agenda'

He warned, without elaboration, that some "hidden agenda are still at play" in the decision of the government to junk the MOA.

In a statement, Sen. Loren Legarda said the government must submit its mistake on the MOA.

"The government needs to repair the same mistakes in the future if it will not submit to fault in this MOA, and this is dangerous because it might enter into another agreement without our knowledge," Legarda said.

# Gov't junks MOA in all forms, Solgen argues at SC

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to go through constitutional processes.

She said that all the MOA did was to list down those controversial points, or the topics that would be addressed in further negotiations.

Devanadera said that the fact that President Macapagal-Arroyo had not yet seen the MOA in its final form showed that the agreement was truly a mere "modification of points of consensus" and "a process in continuance" that the President has yet to approve.

### Binding on gov't

But Justice Adolf Azcuna said that in international law, a declaration of consensus points would be binding on the government. Even a unilateral statement by representatives of the government in international forum is a binding obligation, and the state could not renege on its obligation by claiming that the agreement was unconstitutional, he said.

"From a legal standpoint, you have the MOA initialed by the panel and if you withdraw the (RP), that initial means that under international law, they are compelled to sign it," he said.

He explained that if the MOA had been signed, the state would have been required to change the country's internal laws in order to comply with it.

Mahrouk, as the broker of the peace agreement, could even sue the Philippines before the international courts to compel it to implement the MOA, he added.

Azcuna said that the Supreme Court had to stop the signing of the MOA-AD on the eve of the scheduled signing in Kuala Lumpur last Aug. 5 "because if it had been signed, it would have been a binding international obligation. Malaysia can compel us to (hang) our Constitution."

Before then, MILF forces have attacked towns, looting and burning houses and sending 200,000 people fleeing. The military, which is now engaged in operations against the forces of the so-called rogue MILF commanders, estimates that about 200 people have died in the three-week conflict so far.

The high court is hearing petitions from Sen. Manuel Roxas and several local officials and Bulacan Governor Josefina Dela Cruz to declare the MOA-AD unconstitutional, arguing that in proposing to create a Bangsamoro homeland to be governed by a Bangsamoro Juridical Entity (BJE), the MOA was carving out a separate state for the so-called Bangsamoro people and giving it an identity separate from that of the Philippines.

Chief Justice Reynato Puno ended the oral arguments at 6:30 p.m. yesterday, asking both parties and intervenors to submit their memorandums and position papers in 20 days.

Devanadera was also asked to submit Executive Secretary Eduardo Ermita's written authorization that the MOA would not be signed in its present or future form, the travel authority to Malaysia of the members of the government peace panel and the final draft of the MOA.

### Dismemberment

During the lengthy questioning of Devanadera, Justice Antonio Carpio said the Philippines could indeed be brought before the international courts for failing to honor the MOA, and the country could be forced to change the Constitution regardless of whether Congress or the people agree.

"You are the danger that could have happened: had that MOA been signed? ... You are risking dismemberment of the country on your conjecture that that's not an international obligation," Carpio told Devanadera.

### Not international agreement

Carpio then asked what the government would do if the international courts order the dismantling of provisions that were not in the MOA.

Devanadera replied that the Executive would resist the judgment on grounds that it was not a treaty.

She said that even though the signing of the agreement would be held outside the Philippines, the agreement was not a document to which one could say "we have entered an international document or an international agreement."

Sedfrey Candelaria, legal consultant of the peace panel, also said the panel never acceded that the MOA was an "international agreement."

He said that if the Philippines were to be dragged before the International Court of Justice, the court would not compel it to do anything if it refuses to submit to the court's jurisdiction.

But on questioning from Carpio, Candelaria agreed that implementing the MOA would require an overhaul of the Constitution.

According to Carpio, among the provisions that would be changed to accommodate the MOA were the provisions on currency and the provision for the governor to have a single, national police force.

### No authority to sign

Devanadera told the court that the panel had no authority to sign the MOA, that it was only authorized to negotiate for the memorandum of agreement. She added that it had no authority to enter into an international agreement.

Carpio asked if the MOA was then just a piece of paper and would have no legal effect internationally and domestically why did the panel invite the Organization of Islamic Conference and foreign officials, including Thailand Senate ambassador Kraisi Boonrog to witness the event.

"You mean to say you asked them to witness an event that has no legal significance?" he asked.

The Solicitor General responded that the panel considered the event significant because the panel and the MILF had agreed on points to discuss, and there was confidence generated by the agreement to sit down and talk.

Candelaria also said that the presence of foreign diplomats in the aborted MOA signing was a mere indication that the international community was interested in peace.

Later in the afternoon, during questioning by Justice Edgardo Sandoval, Devanadera said the panel had the authority to sign the MOA. What it could not sign was a final peace agreement, she said.

### MOA set aside

Puno asked on Devanadera's statement that the MOA would not now be signed "in any other form" noting that this was a "significant" change from the Executive's earlier stand that the agreement would not be signed "in its present form."

"Why are there many versions of the architect of the President? Why is its language changing?" Puno asked.

He asked what the difference was between the MOA not being signed in its present form and not being signed in any other form.

Devanadera explained that when the Executive said that the agreement would not be signed in its present form, it was observed that it could be signed in another manner after the hearings were terminated. To make clear the Executive's stand, the official said was made that the MOA would not be signed, she said.

"No matter what the SC decides, the government will not sign MOA," she added.

Puno asked if it can be said that the MOA has been set aside.

"Since it won't be signed, it has been set aside, but can the peace process," Devanadera replied.

### Deviation from traditional mode

The Chief Justice also inquired what guided the MOA with international courts in the interpretation of peace and development to "find no authority to sign."

Devanadera said the panel was not liable for anything because in the first place no signing of the MOA took place.

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Asked why foreign Secretary Alberto Romulo was in Malaysia earlier this month to witness the signing of the MOA-AD, Apostol said: "Maybe he was just there to satisfy his curiosity."

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# 'Smother' C. Mindanao with troops, security zones, says Roxas

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military will be caught between the Christians and Muslims," Roxas said.

He said the peace process must be pursued "but, we have to start on the right foot and that is having established law and order in Central Mindanao," he said.

### Security zones

Roxas said government forces should establish "security zones" even after they have arrested MILF Commanders Ameril Ombra Kato and Abdullah Macapaar alias Commander Bravo.

"At that point, we can start talking again with the MILF," Roxas said.

Kato and Bravo were alleged to have led the MILF units in General Mac Ghazi, Pikit, Datu Piang and Datu Saudi Ampatuan and Shariff Aguak, Maguindanao.

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MILF said it had suffered only several.

### Danger of religious war

Yesterday, talking with reporters yesterday, spurned calls for an all-out war against the MILF — which the Estrada administration pursued in 2000 — because that would mean Christians versus Muslims in the end."

"I didn't want to mention that in the past but right now we must call a spade a spade. So all-out war means the potential, a very strong potential, to have a religious war and which we do not want," Teodoro said.

### Sporadic fighting

He also said: "We cannot countenance any atrocity from [any] side whatsoever. We continue to work with our Muslim brothers ... who are actively work at preventing the spread of this conflict to ordinary people based on what they believe in."

The military said "sporadic" fighting had continued in Maguindanao.

Col. Marlon Balane, head of the Army's 602nd Brigade, said yesterday's fighting was concentrated in a mainland area in Guindulungan complex.

Balane said there were nevertheless reports that some MILF commanders were killed in Thursday's aerial strikes in the province.

Local officials in Maguindanao reported that the fighting occurred around Barra Anggal town.

Hundreds of residents were seen fleeing Barangay Salbu, a rice-farming community in the mid town, toward the national highway connecting the cities of Cotabato and General Santos.

Datu Angpil Mayor Nathaniel Midtimbang said the residents were targeted in the interception by the military of a convoy of vehicles supposed to be going to transport the Pekay community people.

A member of the local committee monitoring cease-and-desist operations were heard as air force planes flew over the towns of Guindulungan, Talitay, Datu Piang, Datu Saudi Ampatuan and Mamasapano.

Residents reported 20 local explosions apparently from bombs.

### No alliance

Teodoro held a press briefing along with Interior Secretary Ronaldo Puno and Moro National Liberation Front (MNLF) leader and Cotabato City Mayor Muslimin Sema to emphasize that the government and the MNLF were working on full implementation of their 1996 peace agreement, including disarmament of MNLF guerrillas.

The MNLF said it is the largest Muslim separatist group in Mindanao.

"The MNLF remains to be a partner of the national government in the implementation of peace and development," Teodoro said.

In a separate press conference, MNLF founder Nur Misuari denied reports that the MNLF and the MILF had joined forces to fight the government.

Puno said some 1,000 MNLF members had joined the PNP and another 1,000 were now with the Armed Forces of the Philippines (AFP).

### No threat in Metro Manila

In Dipolog City, Armed Forces Chief Gen. Alexander Yano said more than 300 participants of the Metro Manila Business Conference that he would "not postpone the enhancement of the law against the kidnap and drug groups] because of Ramadan."

State and security measures were in place in Mindanao's urban centers.

In Metro Manila, the chief of the National Capital Regional Police Office Chief, Director Dacy Reina, said a check of intelligence reports that MILF rebels were now in the metropolis had proved negative.

"So far, there's no direct threat and Metro Manila is safe from any attack," he said.

One intelligence report claimed that Bravo's men had been sent to Metro Manila to conduct "terrorist activities" but Reina said members of an MILF "liquidation squad" had been seen in Pinkahuli Village in Tagaig City.

### Muslims' prayer

Yesterday, around 1,000 Muslims prayed at the Blue Mosque in Quezon City's Tandang Sora to call on an end to the fighting between the government and the MILF.

Around 40 policemen were deployed to secure the perimeter of the mosque, police said. With reports from Nancy Carvajal, Alexis Pagsa and Julie M. Aurelio in Manila; and Louie M. Bacho, Ed Emmanuel, Buda Marabone and Ryan Rosauro, Inquirer Mindanao

## PMA holds entrance test tomorrow

THE PHILIPPINE Military Academy will hold tomorrow its annual entrance examination for PMA embonday.

The exam will be held from 7 a.m. to 5 p.m. at the PMA in Baguio City and other testing centers nationwide.

Examinees should bring with them their exam permits, at least two identification cards, photocopies of their National Statistics Office-issued birth certificate and Form 137, or college transcript of records, and at least two #2 pencils, sharpener and eraser.

Walk-in applicants may see PMA representatives at the test centers on Aug. 28 and 31.

Applicants should be natural-born Filipinos, single, at least 5 feet 4 inches (for men) and 5 feet 2 inches (for women), between the ages of 17 and 23 years, and at least high school graduates.

For additional information, applicants may contact the PMA Office of Cadet Admission at the following telephone numbers: (074) 4448000, 09223810493 and 09165872284.

# US sends ship for C-130 search

ZAMBO. CITY—THE United States government has dispatched a naval hydrographic survey ship from Guam in the Pacific to help in the search and retrieval operation for the ill-fated C-130 cargo plane that crashed at the Davao Gulf here Monday night.

Capt. Rosauro Ariel Gonzales, commander of the Task Force C-130 Brendan created for the search mission, said reporters here he was informed about the dispatch of the ship yesterday.

### Big help

Gonzales said officials viewed the arrival of the US ship as a big boost in efforts being taken to confirm the exact location of the crash site, estimated at about 2.5 km from Barangay Sirawan here.

"What we can now is the narrowed search site. The survey ship will be a big help in confirming the exact location of the fuselage," he said.

Gonzales also said an "echo-sounder [fish finder]" was borrowed by the Philippine Air Force from a fishing company in General Santos City yesterday to help in the retrieval operation.

### No timeline

"Sim Andres Fishing lent us their echo-sounder," he said.

As of yesterday, search-and-rescue teams from the task force had only managed to recover metal fragments, human body parts and clothing items from the ill-fated aircraft, which was carrying 11 people including the two pilots.

"What we are hoping to get on the fourth day of the retrieval operation are major parts of the aircraft, like the propeller, engines, wings or fuselage," Gonzales said.

He also said there was no timeline for the retrieval operation.

"We continue to exert our best effort to maximize everything we do to recover and retrieve the fuselage," Gonzales said.

Josefa R. Bonilla with reports from Dennis Jay C. Santos, Inquirer Mindanao

SULTAN KUDARAT ELECTRIC COOPERATIVE, INC.
INVITATION FOR BIDS
"Materials Supply only" and/or "Labor (civil only)" for 2008 expansion project located in National Highway, Tacurong City, Sultan Kudarat

"YOUR DREAM VACATION HOME COME TRUE"
INTRODUCING OUR
ALL CONCRETE LOG CABINS!
ANDREWS CONSTRUCTION TECHNOLOGY

# Another plane crash: 1 dead

CALAMIAN CITY—THE BODY of a amateur pilot was recovered by fishermen yesterday morning after a training plane crashed into the sea off Lubang Island, Occidental Mindoro, Thursday afternoon.

Chief Supt. Lamin Ibbarra, Mimaropa police director, identified the the victim as Mark Dexter Garcia, 17, who was in the Ilin Island Tanodmark mooring plane.

The plane was owned by Airlink International Aviation College.

According to Emma Quijano-Hilomen, a resident and former village councilor of Barangay Magtakhoan, Lubang Island, Garcia was a graduating aeronautical engineering school.

The body was airlifted to Manila Thursday morning.

BOODLE FIGHT: Commuters share lunch in a boodle fight launching the Go Organic movement yesterday in Quezon City. They are (from left) Alaminos Mayor Hernani Braganza, Philippine Rural Reconstruction Movement chairperson emeritus Helena Benitez, Agriculture Secretary Arthur Yap, and PRRM acting president Augusto Serrano and former Agriculture Undersecretary Dennis Dolores (hidden). SOCCSKSARGEN

# DFA confirms death of Pinoy off Somalia

By Tarra Quismundo

THE DEPARTMENT OF FOREIGN Affairs (DFA) confirmed yesterday the death of one of 26 Filipino seamen seized by pirates in separate ship hijacks off Somalia earlier this month.

DFA Migrant Workers' Affairs Undersecretary Jacobus Cruz Jr. said seaman Jepson Dumagat died two days after suspected Somali pirates attacked MT Ilunga Global 2, a Malaysia-operated tanker carrying palm oil, on Aug. 19.

Dumagat was among 20 Filipinos abducted with 29 other crew members in the hijack at the Gulf of Aden. Circumstances surrounding his death were still unclear. Cruzjos confirmed the Filipino casualty after coordinations with the ship owner and captain.

"The DFA is coordinating with the ship owner on efforts to repatriate the sailor's remains and secure the safe release of the other crew members," said the DFA in a statement sent by text yesterday afternoon.

Almost other Filipinos were also seized off Somalia when pirates attacked Panama-flagged chemical tanker MT Jenar, a Japan-operated ship, on Aug. 22, the same day Dumagat died. These other crewmen were released in the hijack.

Philippine authorities have been working with ship owners and concerned authorities to secure the seamen's release. Filipino skilled workers deployed around Africa have many times fallen to rebel attacks and most were released under mediated terms.

# Go organic, group urges

ENVIRONMENTALISTS, LOCAL government units, the academe and other groups have joined forces to promote organic farming to help solve the country's food crisis.

The groups include the Pesticides Philippines, Philippine Rural Reconstruction Movement (PRRM), Centro Saka Inc., La Liga Policy Institute, IBI Philippines, Education for Life Foundation, University of the Philippines Los Baños, Philippine Greens, Earth Day Network and Mindanao Interfaith Cooperation.

Actress Chin-Chin Gutierrez and pop music artist Joey Ayala are also endorsers in the advocacy to propagate organic food than conventional food. The campaign is dubbed "Go Organic!"

In a joint statement read by former CDA Director and Agriculture Reform Undersecretary Dave Almoguera at a news conference in Quezon City yesterday, the group emphasized the benefits of organic farming. He said that organic farming will boost farmers' income, improve the environment and promote biodiversity, provide good quality food and promote non-toxic Filipino farms.

One of the group's convenors, Alaminos Mayor Hernani Braganza, said, "I am proud and honored to be here joining hands with colleagues from the nongovernmental and farmers' organizations, environment stewards and the academic community in the promotion of organic farming."

Organic food has been proven by nutritionists and dietitians to be healthier and safer than food produced through conventional farming, or the use of fertilizers and chemical substances, he noted.

"I encourage the public and local officials even to highly urbanized places, such as in Metro Manila, to plant at least own backyard to produce organic food," he urged.

Some 85,000 Alaminos economists support the campaign via the "Kabalikatan" program for food safety, improvement of health conditions of farmers and consumers and environmental preservation, Braganza said.

"Mister production is important to generate organic fertilizers. Now, Alaminos has been lucky for being able to produce organic food to ensure a good future for our children," he added.

The Local Government Code of 1991 mandates local government units (LGUs) to make agriculture and water management programs as one of their primary responsibilities.


Bangko Sentral ng Pilipinas
Manila, Philippines

BIDS AND AWARDS COMMITTEE

INVITATION TO APPLY FOR ELIGIBILITY AND TO BID

The Bangko Sentral ng Pilipinas (BSP), through its Bids and Awards Committee (BAC), invites interested parties to apply for eligibility and to bid for the following contract:

| | Approved Budget for the Contract (ABC) | Delivery Period |
|---|---|---|
| Package 1 – Standing Desk (Custom Furniture) | ₱800,000.00 | within fifteen (15) calendar days after receipt of a Purchase Order |
| Package 2 – Executive Chair (Custom Furniture) | ₱1,000,000.00 | within thirty (30) calendar days after receipt of a Purchase Order |

Prospective bidders should have undertaken a similar requirement awarded and completed from January 2005 to August 2008 as stated in the Affidavit (SVFA) of the Approved Budget for the Contract (ABC) of the package/s to bid for. The Eligibility Checklist/Screening as used by the Technical Committee of the BAC shall serve as the preliminary "pass/fail" before Post-qualification for the lowest calculated bid shall be conducted.

An interested bidder is eligible to bid and, during the Security Clearance Issuance, the Prohibited Contractors' Database of Web, Post-qualification and Award of Contract shall be governed by the pertinent provisions of Republic Act No. 9184 and its Implementing Rules and Regulations (IRR).

The complete schedule of activities is listed, as follows:

| Activities | Schedule |
|---|---|
| 1 Issuance of Bid Documents | Starting 30 August 2008 (8:00 A.M. to 1:00 P.M.) |
| 2. Pre-bid Conference | 3 September 2008 (2:00 P.M.) |
| 3. Opening of Bids | 10 September 2008 (2:00 P.M.) |
| 4. Bid Evaluation | Three days or in accordance with the prescribed periods allowed in the Implementing Rules & Regulations (IRR) of R.A. No. 9184 (item 13, Section 29.2, as amended) |
| 5. Notice of Award | |

Bid documents will be available only to prospective bidders upon payment of a non-refundable amount of ₱500 (Five Hundred Pesos) at the BAC-Secretariat Office, Room 1, 2nd Floor, Multi-Purpose Building.

The BSP reserves its right to reject any or all bid proposals, or declare the bidding a failure, or not award the contract, and reserves its absolute discretion not to entertain any or all bids in the event of force majeure.

(Sgd.) ANGELITA BARRIA, JR.
Chairman

(PIN – August 30, 2008)



ANNOUNCEMENT

ATTENTION: FOREIGN NATIONALS

The Philippine Retirement Authority (PRA) will be holding a briefing on retirement for foreign nationals who would like to acquire MULTIPLE-ENTRY, FEE-FREE and PRIVILEGES STAY in the Philippines. The said orientation will be held on:

DATE : 4 September 2008
TIME : 10:00 AM
PLACE: PRA Briefing Room
29/Citibank Tower
Paseo De Roxas, Makati City

For interested parties, please contact Mesdames Teresa Buenaida or Nieva Sacbera at telephone numbers 848-1411 to 16 or email us at inquiry@pra.gov.ph



INQUIRER


## THE DAILY GOSPEL

Saturday, August 30, 2008
21st Week in Ordinary Time

1st Reading: 1 Cor 1:18-24
Gospel: Mt 25:1-4-30

Jesus said to his disciples, "Imagine some one who, before going abroad, summoned his servants to entrust his property to them. He gave five talents of silver to one, three into to another, and one to a third, each one according to his ability, and he went away. He who received five talents went at once to do business with the money and gained another five. The one who received two did the same and gained another two. But the one with one talent went off and dug a hole in the ground and buried his master's money.

"After a long time, the master of those servants returned and asked for a reckoning. The one who received five talents came with another five talents, saying, 'Lord, you entrusted me with five talents, but see I have gained five more with them.' The master answered, 'Well done, good and faithful servant; since you have been faithful in a few things, I will entrust you with much more. Come and share the joy of your master.' Then the one who had two talents came and said, 'Lord, you entrusted me with two talents; I have two more which I gained with them.' His master said, 'Well done, good and faithful servant; since you have been faithful in little things, I will entrust you with much more. Come and share the joy of your master.'

"Finally, the one who had received one talent came and said, 'Master, I knew that you are a demanding man, reaping where you did not sow and gather what you have not scattered. I was afraid, so I hid your money in the ground. Here, take what is yours.' But his master replied, 'Wicked and worthless servant, you knew that I reap where I have not sown and gather where I have not scattered? You should have deposited my money in the bank, and on my return I would have gotten back what is mine with interest.

"Therefore, take the talent from him, and give it to the one who has ten. For to all those who have, more will be given, and they will have an abundance; but from those who are unproductive, even what they have will be taken from them. As for the worthless servant, throw him out into the dark where there will be weeping and gnashing of teeth."

Commentary:

Just how the ones who had lost great but received nothing were then filling it away for safekeeping. He fear would be his undoing for the master exposed much latter things from him.

*What keeps us from investing ourselves in the work of the Lord? What keeps us from taking a risk in extending help to the needy or offering a word of kindness to someone who is downhearted? What do we have to fear in extending ourselves in loving service? Does not the Lord promise to remain with us always as our strength and our help?*


Gemma Cruz-Araneta, Bandanna, a director in UP Diliman, Diliman, Quezon City, UP PO Box 154, Diliman 1101 Quezon City, PO Box 1, 1021 QCPO, 926-4306 loc. 2627, 929-8267, 8-2-8-0, 928-1816 fax, website, http://www.bandanna.ph, http://www.facebook.com/bandanna.ph, http://www.philippinecatholic.com, Filipino translations of the Philippine Catholic Church (1956), Quezon Philosophy, Philippine Literature, Quezon City, Philippines, Asia, Author: UP Diliman, Quezon City, Philippines, Asia, Author: UP Diliman, Quezon City, Philippines, Asia, Author: UP Diliman

# Oil firms cut prices of gasoline, diesel, kerosene by P1 a liter

WITH WORLD OIL prices dropping significantly this month, local oil companies have reduced the pump prices of gasoline, diesel and kerosene by P1 a liter.

First to implement the price reduction was Unioil Petroleum Philippines Inc. at 11 p.m. yesterday, followed by Petron Corp., Pilipinas Shell Petroleum Corp., Chevron Philippines Inc. and Total Philippines Inc. at 12:01 a.m. and Flasters Petroleum Corp. at 5 a.m. today.

The price cut was in keeping with the Department of Energy's guidance that there was still room for a fuel price reduction this weekend.

The oil firms all observed following world oil prices as the source for the price drop—the fifth for gasoline for a total of P5.50 a liter and the fourth for diesel and kerosene for a total of P3.50 a liter.

According to data from the Department of Energy, the regional benchmark Dubai crude plunged to an August average of $112.87 a barrel, from $131.27 a barrel in July.

The price of imported gasoline is based on the Mean of Platts Singapore (MOPS) benchmark for refined petroleum products dropped to an average of $113.41 a barrel in the Aug. 1-29 period, from July's $139.27 a barrel average.

MOPS-based diesel likewise slipped to an average price of $130.37 a barrel in the first 29 days of August, from the $160.81-a-barrel average posted last month.

With this price reduction, pump prices of premium unleaded gasoline now ranged from P54.04-P56.26 a liter, diesel from P53.30-P54.60 a liter, and kerosene from P57-P58.40 a liter.

But Segong Ilyasiong, Makabayan investors general Renato Reyes Jr. said the rollback was too small.

"If 11-a-liter rollback should be at least P6-7, which is roughly equivalent to the oil price hikes in May and June this year. We are concerned that it is taking the oil companies forever to give consumers a substantial relief from high oil prices," he added. Abigail L. Kwok

INTRODUCING
STUDIO 15" NOTEBOOK FROM DELL.

It's impossible to ignore the new Studio 15 laptop from Dell as performance meets design with stunning results. Our new 16:9 ratio lets you know when you are in a hot spot at a glance. And, when you need a break from working, sit back and enjoy the very latest in multimedia on our high definition screen, and with 5.1 channel surround sound. So set a new standard for work and play with the Studio laptop from Dell and put style into multitasking.

ISSN 0116-2042 INQUIRER Vol. 2196, 208 OPINION

# Keeping the peace

EDITORIAL

THE LAST THING THE TROUBLED AREAS OF Mindanao need is another army roaming the countryside and terrorizing citizens. But here we have not one but two groups threatening to rear their ugly heads, one newly resurrected, the other still aborning. Both are believed to have the blessings and support of the government; the second group is, in fact, being organized and equipped by the Philippine National Police.

Shortly after some forces of the Moro Islamic Liberation Front went on a rampage of murder and pillage in three Mindanao provinces early this month, PNP Director General Avelino Razon announced the creation of a village level counter-force ostensibly to enable peaceful civilians to protect their communities against rebel lands. This group is to be composed of "unarmed, screened and trained" police auxiliaries, barangay tanods and civilian volunteers. Razon said the PNP initially plans to distribute 1,000 shotguns, and if the experiment proves successful, it would give away 72,000 more.

If recent history is any guide, that number represents 13,000 unaccountable, ill-disciplined and potentially abusive goons that will not stand up and fight in the face of an enemy that is superior in both number and firepower. Instead they will turn their energies to intimidating and terrorizing the very communities they are supposed to protect. The Cafgu and its earlier incarnations, like the Civilian Home Defense Forces, are not very reassuring examples of what police or military auxiliary forces can do or can be. As the very least they are easily transformed into private armies of warlords disguised as local officials or lawmakers, and at worst they become an uncontrollable bunch of vigilantes, standing the most murderous rebel group in its sowing terror and wreaking death and destruction wherever they operate.

Which is exactly what the so-called Reform Rage Movement's (RRM) threatens to do. The Christian armed group, a revival of the dreaded Ilagas that unleashed a wave of violence in Muslim communities in the 1970s, has announced a new balance of vengeance: not an eye for an eye or a tooth for a tooth, but 10 eyes or 10 teeth for every eye or every tooth the MILF destroys. "For every civilian killed, we will execute 10 Moro rebels," the spokesman of the group warned Wednesday in a clandestine press conference in North Cotabato.

That may be fine—if they can deliver. It will make winning the war to enrich cadres for the Armed Forces of the Philippines. But even as the military boasts about the "total hemostatic precision" of their operations, the "collateral damage" mounts as government forces pursue two MILF commanders whose forces murdered dozens of civilians and looted and burned their homes in Lanao del Norte and North Cotabato. Only last Sunday the Commission on Human Rights counted 20 civilians killed in government troops overrun MILF positions in Lanao del Norte. Once the Ilagas and the police auxiliaries get going, expect the slaughter of the innocents to intensify.

It happened before in 1971, when the Ilagas massacred 68 men, women and children inside a mosque in Carmen, North Cotabato. It happened again in 1985, when Norberto Manero and his gang of Ilagas gunned down Fr. Tulio Favali and fiercely feasted on his corpse. And it is happening now with the Cafgus helping the military in seizing on their own to hunt down suspected communist rebels and make them disappear from the face of the earth.

Nothing good has come out of organizing and arming civilians to fight insurgents of any stripe. Nothing good will come out of the plan to create another armed group in the guise of self defense. Making sure is the responsibility of the AFP and keeping peace is the duty of the PNP. Unless they are ready to disband, their raison d'etre—and should not—be dirtepoint to civilians.

The PNP should abandon this foolish idea of distributing firearms to civilians. This will only create a new army that will be difficult to control. Instead, the authorities should act swiftly to disband the RRM before it can begin its misguided mission. Letting it be is to risk turning the punitive military operations in parts of Mindanao into a bigger and wider conflagration.

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# Indigenous peoples

PUBLIC LIVES

*Randy David*

IN 1917, THE PHOENICIAN BOARD OF MINdoro passed a resolution requiring all "non-Christians" belonging to the Mangyan tribes to live in a permanent settlement near Lake Naujan. They were to immediately abandon the vast forests in which they lived, and settle down in a reservation designated for their exclusive use. Failure to comply with the order made a Mangyan liable for imprisonment of not more than 90 days.

One such Mangyan, named Baki, together with some of his relatives, failed to comply. He was promptly arrested and charged. Two lawyers, the American E.S. Williams and the Filipino Filemon Sotto, took up his case, went to the Supreme Court and filed the habeas corpus on behalf of Baki.

Baki's lawyers described the Mindoro law thus: "In Tagalog English, and in words as plain and unequivocal as language can express, it provides for the segregation of 'non-Christians' and none other ... Lawful conviction or attempt by the legislature to discriminate between individuals because of their religious beliefs, and is, consequently, unconstitutional."

In 1919, the high court handed down a long, erudite and controversial decision. It was penned by Associate Justice George Malcolm, founder of the University of the Philippines College of Law. Justice Malcolm agreed that the petition for habeas corpus could indeed be invoked under the circumstances, but he rejected the claim of religious discrimination. The non-Christians (Muslims and tribal groups) of or to a religious category but to a cultural one indicating a level of civilization.

Malcolm wrote: "The Mangyans are very low in culture. They have considerable Negrito blood and have not advanced beyond the Negritos in civilization. They are a primitive, timid, primitive, semi-nomadic people." He likened their situation to that of the North American Indians, who were, according to him, in a "state of pupilage." The Mangyan reservation was for their own good, he declared. It is far from being unconstitutional.

It must have been very difficult for a libertarian like Justice Malcolm to arrive at a ruling like this. He referred to the Jones Law of 1916, several times, particularly one provision: "That no law shall be enacted in said Islands which shall deprive any person of life, liberty, or property without due process of law; or deny to any person therein the equal protection of the laws." This line was practically lifted from the 14th Amendment of the US Constitution.

Justice Malcolm affirmed the inviolability of that principle, but he did not believe it was applicable to Baki's case. "Theoretically, one may assert that all men are created free and equal. Practically, we know that the nation is not precisely so-it can. The Mangyans, for instance, are not free, as civilized men are free, and they are not the equals of their more forthcoming brothers. True, indeed, they are citizens, with many but not all of the rights which citizenship implies."

I chanced upon this decision (G.R. No. L-14870) recently while researching a paper on the origins of UP's first colleges. It is an astonishing document. Every page in it manifests an incisive and analytical mind at work. But it was clearly a document of its time—it reflected the views and the blind spots, the good intentions and the ill-concealed condescension, that marked the consciousness of the period.

The progressive and enlightened opinion-makers in the decolonizing of the non-Christian peoples were as prevalent (and still are today) that I probably would not have known how wrong they were had I not gone to Kalinga in the late '70s. The people of the Cordillera in that time were up in arms against the series of hydroelectric dams that were to be put up by the Marcos government at different points of the powerful Chico River. Their protest found a voice in Macli-ing Dulag, a quiet and humble man in his early 40s from the village of Bugnay. Macli-ing, who worked as a government agricultural field technician, had only a grade-six school but he was a man of great knowledge and leadership.

I was with a group of academics, activists and journalists who had joined the late seminarians Lutgardo Labad and Jose Dalman on this trip. The goal was to meet Macli-ing and to persuade him to bring the case against the Chico River dam project to the Supreme Court. Outside Macli-ing's hut, the two venerable statesmen, both brilliant lawyers, squatted on the ground with the Kalinga leader. "There is a lot of jurisprudence that we can cite," said Sedfrey in Filipino, "to make the court recognize the primacy of your rights to your ancestral lands."

"Let us help you bring your struggle to the courts in Manila," chimed the old man Labad.

After they spoke, Macli-ing looked at them kindly and told them in his language: "I thank you kind sirs for coming to—our parts offering your generous assistance. Your presence has made us stronger. But I cannot accept what you're proposing. If we submit our beliefs to your court in Manila, it would mean we don't hold them deeply. Our lands and our mountains are older than your courts. Your courts speak a different language we cannot understand. And they too will not understand us. We are not claiming ownership over this land. We do not own the land, the land owns us."

Macli-ing was murdered a few years later. He was just too bright, a man that was perceived as dangerous and totally inconsistent with the figure of the native. The Chico Dam project was eventually abandoned. But the tragedy of the indigenous peoples continues.

• • •

Comments to public.lives@gmail.com

# Living up to UP's motto

GET REAL

*SolVer Collas-Monsod*

THE MOTTO OF THE UNIVERSITY OF THE Philippines is "Honor and Excellence." Judging from the premier position it holds among Philippine universities in various published international rankings—not to mention that its graduates regularly top professional examinations (medicine, law, engineering, accounting, etc.), and that the great majority of all national artists and practically all national scientists are its products—it is safe to say that the "Excellence" part of the motto has been lived up to.

It is perfectly natural to be proud that one's excellence is admired, hence believed. Thus, excellence is what is focused on, to the extent that dishonorable means are sometimes used to achieve it. ("The end justifies the means.") The tactful success in achieving "excellence" by dishonorable means has led to the establishment of not one but two UP School of Economics Dean (renamed in One poem out that it "was known through the pages of this country's history, as well "unfortunately find it replete with UP graduates who were excellent but were not honorable and/or have served the leading damage to our nation and institutions."

His lecture line is that honor and excellence are distinct, and that those who conceived the ideals of the university were truly wise when they did not endure its ideal to "Excellence above all," or to "Honor though the heavens," or even "Excellence and Honor." Rather, he emphasizes, they placed honor before excellence—the first being more important than the second. And we ignore that "hemisphere or bearing" only at our peril.

And yes, UP has produced thousands of men and women who—may not have been recognized in the academic arena, but have made lasting contributions to the country and their families—men and women of honor. And yes, it has produced as well those who are both honorable and excellent. Unfortunately, public attention goes focused on the allegedly dishonorable, whether excellent or mediocre.

For example, the investigation of Court of Appeals justices (actually only two) has made the already unsavory reputation of that court (for selling JDVs and decisions) even more unsavory. This is a UP alumnus, the other is from another. As I noted in last week's column, the good apples in the Court of Appeals barrel are being pursued as also rotten.

In an attempt to find out how many good apples still remain, I did a non-scientific survey. Indeed, I asked around. The method by no means qualifies even as an informal survey, but I do consider my sources unimpeachable. What I found was that of the 51 members of the appeals court who are assigned in Metro Manila, 27 definitely have the reputation of hereditary asking for bribes not accepting bribe offers; and 24 definitely are reputed to be rotten apples. Of the 27 with clean hands, 10 are from UP, five men and five women. Of the 24 who are considered rotten apples, there are from UP (one man and two women).

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# Calling for surveys in Mindanao

SOCIAL CLIMATE

*Mahar Mangahas*

FROM THE OUTSET, LET ME SAY THAT OWS is not looking for survey projects in Mindanao. This is simply suggestion that the path towards peacebuilding/ practical consensus on the opposite political future of Mindanao can be illuminated by outsiders, local-level, opinion polling in Mindanao, by scientific institutes of Mindanao, but NOT of the private variety.

For context, consider the proposed Bangsamoro domain of dispensation on Ancestral Domain (MOA-AD) between the government and the Moro Islamic Liberation Front, which refers to the establishment of a Bangsamoro Juridical Entity (BJE) in certain territories. What are the opinions about the BJE of the people currently residing in those territories? What are their expectations and/or fears on account of the MOA-AD? To begin with, how familiar are they with the MOA-AD? Doubtless due to simple ignorance or confusion can be remedied by improving public information.)

How different, if at all, are the opinions of Muslims, Christians, Ismaels and others? Are the differences connected more to religion, or more to ethnic origin? Who (meaning which persons, or organizations, or institutions) do the various groups trust most to design and implement a program for their development?

Actually, the MOA-AD states not by designating territories but by defining the Bangsamoro people as "those who are natives or original inhabitants of Mindanao and its adjacent islands including Palawan and the Sulu archipelago at the time of conquest or colonization and their descendants whether mixed or full native blood," adding that spouses and their descendants are included.

Well, how many of the present residents of Mindanao and its adjacent islands consider themselves Bangsamoro by this description? Answers must vary by local Bangsamoro jurisdiction, because how many of those who identify themselves as Bangsamoro reside in the BJE-designated areas; how many of them are outside? Regardless of whether or not they identify themselves as Bangsamoro, how many Muslim-majority areas are considered through probable. If it would be good if they overlapped a bit). Opinion polling is basically an exercise of low speed, only after more sophisticated than sound. The more that people practice it, independently of each other, the better the society as a whole.

I am admitting, of course, only to opinion polls that are honest and scientific. Unscientific methods—no can be ignored; they are relatively easy to spot. Outright false don't work—just as counterfeit money never circulates because made.

True opinion polling aims to discover what an entire people give, not to tell people what an entire people give. Certainly, differences between subgroups in the opinion polls should be carefully examined. Nevertheless, the main objective is to combine scientific opinion polls for all means, let them compete with each other in generating meaningful data about values (Bangsamoro or of all origins stand in the current political crisis.

Finally, a word about the resources needed. The BJE's objective is to take a random sample of 300 interviews for each micro-group that needs to be separately represented. One standard unit-pile of 300 for the territory of Mindanao does not allow confident analysis of Muslim opinion, because usually is sufficiently better about 60 Muslims in the sample. Therefore, to be able to separately analyze Muslim and Christian opinions in Lanao del Norte, it should obtain samples of 300 for each group, or 600 in all. The same holds for to obtain City Cotabato City, etc.

For those with more research funds, I recommend doing polls in many areas and/or at more points in time, rather than accounting a single area in a single point in time with more interviews.

Some people think surveys are unaffordable. But is it more costly to spend on opinion research than to spend on armaments? What is the cost of the fighting in people repeatedly requires these operations, compared to the cost of shedding blood so as to have one's opinions on either people?

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CONTACT INFO: www.ssrc.org.ph or mahar.mangahas@ssrc.org.ph

# Asia's rice: Asia's fall?

YOUNG BLOOD

*Danvar Mariano*

FOR HUNDREDS OF YEARS, ASIA'S LIFE, IN MANY ASIAN COUNtries, its entire core to eat, you say "Let's eat rice." In South Korea, they means living "the good life," while Filipino language will sometimes say, "Please, even just to buy rice." Believing that rice plants can "purify the air," Japan's national identity is also closely linked to its now heavily subsidized rice farming.

Among rich nations, however, production subsidies often give rise farmers an unfair advantage over their Third World counterparts, discouraging rice production elsewhere. Moreover, even when the World Trade Organization forced open Japan's rice market in the 1990s, allowing the import of "cheaper, subsidized California rice, the imports ended up in warehouses and their were sent out as aid to North Korea or used as chicken and pig feed.

More recently food riots caused by hunger for rice can seven lives in Cameroon and the jobs of several officials in Haiti.

Indeed, for many nations, rice is a matter of national security. Leaders of the hardest hit rice import-dependent countries have scrambled to find remedies. The Indonesian prime minister launched rice production subsidies, while the Philippine president ordered the prosecution of hoarders and a step to the conversion of farmland to subdivisions.

Rapid industrialization, global warming, high inflation, the population boom and agricultural neglect all are the major factors in depletion. Farmers are now also utilizing land for more lucrative crops like corn or grapes. In the United States, corn, which can be turned into biofuel, has gone up in value. In Australia, land is being used to grow grapes for wines.

Behind this, however, is an ethical question. Rice is a staple for most of the world's poorest populations, chardonnay and biofuels are not. Increases in the price of rice may be just an inconvenience to the middle class, but they mean the difference between survival and starvation for the poor who are already spending 80 percent of their income on food.

Due to rising costs of fuel and grain, major rice exporting countries like Vietnam and Thailand have refused to export rice until its domestic needs are secured. China's growing middle class has also been blamed for the increase in demand for staple. Plagued by a severe water shortage of its own, China, the Asian giant had also sought more grains and halted exports.

This is unfortunate for Oxfam's North Korean counterpart, who recently asked for its aid. Although the Philippines is seen as the "epicenter of the storm," the countries and multinational economy is probably far worse by the crisis. But export-ruffle surges in South Korea by 40 percent, while smaller farmers China declined food delivery to the countries by 200,000 tons. Disappointments about surplus disarmament have also emerged South Korea's total delivery of 100,000 tons of fertilizer and 600,000 tons of water to the region, leaving many worried that the famine of the 1990s will recur.

Analysts have also pointed out that famines are not caused by food shortages but by governments's failure to intervene on behalf of the poor. The rice crisis has indeed put the ongoing's resolve in the test, as it has to be more open to aid and the conditions that come with it.

The Asian financial crisis also taught us that during trying times, regional cooperation is needed. Immediately, however, governments have tightened their rice imports and increased production subsidies with the aim of being "self-sufficient," even though more trade would have been a better solution. Unsustainable long-term, rice production subsidies have also mostly benefited farmers that are better off, whether in the United States or in the Philippines. This growing "food for fuel," secondary prevents countries from exploiting their comparative advantage producing the kinds of food they produce more efficiently, and ignores the reality that complete self-sufficiency is practically unattainable for most island countries like the Philippines, where the land is better suited to growing coconuts and corn.

Unfortunately, in countries like Japan or where many developing nations lie are the ones that are the worst hit by global warming. Losing their harvests due to typhoons and typhoons means they have to depend more on countries far-flung from the equator, which initially benefit from this warmer climate.

To solve the food security, East Asian countries need to look their narrow-minded "starve thy neighbor" policies in favor of freer, freer trade. Farmers and policymakers must also consider the ethics of shifting to cash crops at the sacrifice of staple food crops. We also have to realize that we can't carry on as if it's business as usual and start to curb population growth, a prime cause of the food production/demand, all of which jeopardize food security. With the price of rice going as high as three times that year, hunger has spread and the stability of the region is at risk.

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*Danvar Mariano, 25, is a Fulbright Center for the Pacific Rim scholar at the University of San Francisco.*

# Olympic gold not built on prayer

COMMENTARY

*Juan Miguel Luz*



WHETHER FORGETTABLE OLYMPICS, NO medals. Third is a row. We would think that by now we would have four-last find Olympic gold is not built on prayers, signature campaigns, cash incentives, presidential orders or pleadings.

Maybe we should get rid of the presidential appointees that lead Philippine sports and replace them with Manny Pacquiao, Freddie Roach, Pinoy Superstarmo, Efren "Bata" Reyes, Iganga Woods and other world-class Filipino players. They understand that it takes a spirit of training to win in any sport.

Seriously, we cannot hope to attain Olympic gold unless we build a serious grass-roots sports program. But we have a bigger problem.

How do you produce a world-class runner in 10,000 meters, 42 kilometers?

Olympic rules allow up to three entries per in dividual track event. In our case, if you hold a national meet and take the top three winners per region, that will make 51 entries from 17 regions of the country.

If each province and city raises three athletes in the regional meet, that will make up to about 800 athletes in all 17 regional meets just for the 5,000-meter event.

If each province and city had its own meet to pick its national athletes in the regional meet, the number of 5,000-meter athletes in the country would be from 3,000 to 5,000 nationwide. And if every school participated in the town meet and had a 5,000-meter athlete or two, those numbers would swell further. Multiply this by all the different events and there would be tens of thousands of track athletes to train.

Of course, not all of them would be world class but the larger the pool of athletes in sports, the greater the likelihood of finding potential world-class talent in the country. None of the athletes that we sent will make up one day and run faster in 5,000 meters than ever. There is need for training and competition at the community level. That means grass-roots or school-based sports.

Unfortunately, this social infrastructure is withering. Many of it needs repair or even bigger problems that I mentioned earlier. Most of our children are not physically fit to compete due to poor health and nutrition.

Of the 12.8 million pupils, aged 6-12 years old, in public elementary schools nationwide, 30 percent are underweight and 30 percent are underheight or underweight. (FNRI/DOST). The renewed growth is a result of poor nutrition at birth and in the early years. Two-thirds of elementary kids are iodine deficient; over one-third have iron deficiency anemia. Turning this problem around will take anywhere from 5 to 12 years considering we are serious about investing our health and nutrition among very young children—and we should start today. Any chance at Olympic gold requires a large pool of qualified athletes first, which to choose the best. To build that pool, we need to establish a strong grass-roots sports program for young athletes all over the country. For kids to play grass-roots sports, they must be physically fit. To be physically fit, children must be in good health.

That is the essence of the Olympic motto: *Citius, Altius, Fortius*.

The Department of Education under then Secretary Edilberto de Jesus had the ground work for a math-a-program....From Good Health to Great Sports—as follows:

• Grades 1-2: Focus on health and nutrition with an intensified feeding as the core intervention.

• Grades 3 through high school: Engage all children in physical education and a physical fitness test once during the school year (based on existing international norms.)

• Grades 5 through high school: Introduce team sports (soccer, basketball, volleyball, etc.) and individual sports.

• Encourage intramural and inter-school activities at different levels leading up to the nationals.

All of this was premised on a system of health, organization (e.g., the schools) and a framework for sports development. Our schools should build the pool of potential national athletes.

In the winter Beijing games, the most successful country in terms of change in medal production from previous games was Great Britain, after a very poor showing in Sydney in 2000, the first post-colonial country to win a gold.

Britain's 47 years later, in Beijing, Britain's gold and total medal tally far surpassed anything it had in the past.

Of course, there is room for individual talent and sports specialization. The Ethiopians and Ethiopians are huge of long-distance running and the Americans have called the sprints. We are known in bowling, billiards and taekwondo. Unfortunately, they are not yet Olympic events.

Will there be an Olympic gold in our future? Yes, if we begin to build a system for good health, physical fitness and grass-roots school sports.

Will there be a gold in Beijing? Not a chance. I think we're not enough to win the gold. It's a matter of training that physically and mentally prepares one to do battle.

A national game plan for Olympic preparation presumed on good health and physical fitness starting at age seven would bring us into contention Olympic gold three or four Olympic games from now. Otherwise, our prayers will remain unanswered.

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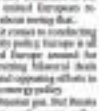
*Juan Miguel Luz is president of the International Academy of Sport Administration in Beijing, Canada and former education undersecretary.*

# Putin's gold-medal war



WORLD VIEW

*Chris Patten*

LONDON—HOSTS GOES THE "OLYMPIC FAME," otherwise known as Russia's invasion of Georgia, really started? The war, of course, was over a predictable and predicted. Its results are equally clear.

First, Prime Minister Vladimir Putin remains in unambiguous charge in Moscow. He may play a "good cop-bad cop" routine with President Dmitri Medvedev, but the bad cop, Putin, is the real boss.

Second, Putin cannot stand Georgian President Mikheil Saakashvili, who admittedly is not an easy man to like. The Russian thought the Georgian had become too big for his boots. He wanted for Saakashvili to go a step too far, and then came down on him and his poor country like a ton of bricks.

Third, Russia has been stirring up trouble in South Ossetia and Abkhazia for years. Moscow wants to keep Georgia weak. It plays the same game in Transdniestria in independent Moldova. If no outsider had tried a similar tactic in Chechnya, the Russians would probably have invaded it anyway.

Fourth, today's Russian leaders, like 19th-century tsars, want a sphere of influence around their borders. As far as they are concerned, the countries that were once part of the Russian empire in the former Soviet Union still enjoy only limited sovereignty. That message, being communicated from Georgia to Ukraine and the United Arab Republics is heard very loudly.

Russia has in particular opposed its neighbors joining Nato. What to Nato against, the Russians ask? Where is Nato's Asian line? Are our Russians really threatened?

If so how should we react? Russia's actions have had the reverse effect to what was presumably intended: the invasion of Georgia has made a powerful case for further Nato enlargement.

Fifth, Georgia itself provides an important lesson. Countries must try to find alternatives rather than not want to be totally dependent on pipelines controlled by Russia. Indeed, Georgia is Russia's choke point in its policy of using oil and gas as weapons of foreign policy. Georgia is Russia's choke point in its policy of using oil and gas as strategic foreign policy weapons, which is has done repeatedly. The Swedish Defense Research Agency has reported that out of 20 deliveries or gas supply interruptions, explicit threats, or coercive price actions by Russia since 1991, only 11 had nothing to do with politics.

America has retained strength—at least verbally—to Russia's attack on its neighbor, in which the Russian army moved in first and made things safe for the Russian backed unofficial South Ossetian militia to loot and pillage Georgian property. But America is not in a strong position to go any further. Its moral authority has been compromised in the Bush years, it cannot put more troops on the ground to defend Georgian sovereignty, and, even if it could, doing so would escalate the crisis.

America's position is further weakened in the direction of a strong and united European response. But you can forget about seeing that.

Russia knows that while it cannot re-conducting a serious foreign and security policy, Europe is all smash. Russia has pushed Europe around for years on energy issues, cutting bilateral deals with the biggest countries and using its influence to worsen a common European energy policy.

Europe certainly needs Russian gas. But Russia needs European consumers, and sooner rather than later it will look more European investment in energy exploration and extraction.

So now Europe is in Russia. Europe seems to revive the Cold War, that it is not the European Union that is being provocative. It is not Germany, France and Italy that are invading their neighbors.

We Europeans seem to have forgotten our history. There were other times when we have stood by while a millionaire. Europeans have assumed that it had the right to intervene wherever it wanted to advance the interests of those who claimed shared ethnicity from the Balkans to the Caucasus.

French President Nicolas Sarkozy claims to have brought peace to Georgia. But it has only temporarily frozen the bloody conflict of the fighting will have frozen Europe in that frustrated state for years.

In what, exactly, will Europe do? Perhaps not really Europeans should be cautious, but I doubt whether anything tougher than strongly worded communiqués will ever be employed.

Will we stop talking about our allegedly shared values with Russia? Will we press the pause button on further discussion of how to integrate Russia fully into the international community? Will we cut off some of our contacts with Russia, resonant or its membership of the G8, or delay to entry to the World Trade Organization? Will we put on the table for the time being negotiations on a partnership and cooperation agreement between the EU and Russia?

I suspect that the answer to each of these questions is a resounding no. It will be business more usual, as usual as European peoples cheerfully in the name of their own economic interests to Sochi, just up the road from the Russian missiles and tanks on Georgian soil. Meanwhile, Europeans will continue to talk about their crucial role in world affairs.

It is enough to make even the cynical dealer their heads in disbelief. You would not make it up. Or would you? Or is opinion—and will—cursed Europe's problems in the future. As Putin wins the gold medal in his favorite event: bullying his smaller neighbors.

*Project Syndicate*

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*Chris Patten is a former EU commissioner for external relations. He was the last governor of Hong Kong and was the last British governor of Hong Kong. He is currently chancellor of Oxford University and a member of the British House of Lords.*

YOUNG BLOOD

*Danvar Mariano*

FOR HUNDREDS OF YEARS, ASIA'S LIFE, IN MANY ASIAN COUNtries, its entire core to eat, you say "Let's eat rice." In South Korea, they means living "the good life," while Filipino language will sometimes say, "Please, even just to buy rice." Believing that rice plants can "purify the air," Japan's national identity is also closely linked to its now heavily subsidized rice farming.

Among rich nations, however, production subsidies often give rise farmers an unfair advantage over their Third World counterparts, discouraging rice production elsewhere. Moreover, even when the World Trade Organization forced open Japan's rice market in the 1990s, allowing the import of "cheaper, subsidized California rice, the imports ended up in warehouses and their were sent out as aid to North Korea or used as chicken and pig feed.

More recently food riots caused by hunger for rice can seven lives in Cameroon and the jobs of several officials in Haiti.

Indeed, for many nations, rice is a matter of national security. Leaders of the hardest hit rice import-dependent countries have scrambled to find remedies. The Indonesian prime minister launched rice production subsidies, while the Philippine president ordered the prosecution of hoarders and a step to the conversion of farmland to subdivisions.

Rapid industrialization, global warming, high inflation, the population boom and agricultural neglect all are the major factors in depletion. Farmers are now also utilizing land for more lucrative crops like corn or grapes. In the United States, corn, which can be turned into biofuel, has gone up in value. In Australia, land is being used to grow grapes for wines.

Behind this, however, is an ethical question. Rice is a staple for most of the world's poorest populations, chardonnay and biofuels are not. Increases in the price of rice may be just an inconvenience to the middle class, but they mean the difference between survival and starvation for the poor who are already spending 80 percent of their income on food.

Due to rising costs of fuel and grain, major rice exporting countries like Vietnam and Thailand have refused to export rice until its domestic needs are secured. China's growing middle class has also been blamed for the increase in demand for staple. Plagued by a severe water shortage of its own, China, the Asian giant had also sought more grains and halted exports.

This is unfortunate for Oxfam's North Korean counterpart, who recently asked for its aid. Although the Philippines is seen as the "epicenter of the storm," the countries and multinational economy is probably far worse by the crisis. But export-ruffle surges in South Korea by 40 percent, while smaller farmers China declined food delivery to the countries by 200,000 tons. Disappointments about surplus disarmament have also emerged South Korea's total delivery of 100,000 tons of fertilizer and 600,000 tons of water to the region, leaving many worried that the famine of the 1990s will recur.

Analysts have also pointed out that famines are not caused by food shortages but by governments's failure to intervene on behalf of the poor. The rice crisis has indeed put the ongoing's resolve in the test, as it has to be more open to aid and the conditions that come with it.

The Asian financial crisis also taught us that during trying times, regional cooperation is needed. Immediately, however, governments have tightened their rice imports and increased production subsidies with the aim of being "self-sufficient," even though more trade would have been a better solution. Unsustainable long-term, rice production subsidies have also mostly benefited farmers that are better off, whether in the United States or in the Philippines. This growing "food for fuel," secondary prevents countries from exploiting their comparative advantage producing the kinds of food they produce more efficiently, and ignores the reality that complete self-sufficiency is practically unattainable for most island countries like the Philippines, where the land is better suited to growing coconuts and corn.

Unfortunately, in countries like Japan or where many developing nations lie are the ones that are the worst hit by global warming. Losing their harvests due to typhoons and typhoons means they have to depend more on countries far-flung from the equator, which initially benefit from this warmer climate.

To solve the food security, East Asian countries need to look their narrow-minded "starve thy neighbor" policies in favor of freer, freer trade. Farmers and policymakers must also consider the ethics of shifting to cash crops at the sacrifice of staple food crops. We also have to realize that we can't carry on as if it's business as usual and start to curb population growth, a prime cause of the food production/demand, all of which jeopardize food security. With the price of rice going as high as three times that year, hunger has spread and the stability of the region is at risk.

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*Danvar Mariano, 25, is a Fulbright Center for the Pacific Rim scholar at the University of San Francisco.*

IN THE NEWS

Ninoy Aquino

# Raw egoism, materialism on display

LETTERS

TREADG 20 RIMS FEATURE ON medical researcher Marlon Diaz Garcia should not have been printed. —not only contrary to my

I respect my right to be country a crowd booing, but as I was reading that piece on Garcia dying to tell more on to America for "better medical treatment," I couldn't help but get utterly pessimistic and really very disgusted.

Surely, his 20 years of life must have become a paralleled one because obviously it takes money to get a degree in medicine. Then he was exposed to the good, the poorest of the poor trying to get medical help. He knows why our country is lagging behind in providing basic health care, he knows the sorry state of our hospitals and medical facilities, and he knows the country could use some help from doctors like him who might be willing to sacrifice a bit in the name of service to countrymen.

And then he blurts out that he can hardly wait to go to America!

Talk about sore egoism, drinking only of one's material needs and financial security, of self-preservation and self-advancement! I agree, these are very basic human desires. However, the good doctor has had his share of financial blessings; maybe, all throughout his rather 20 years of life thinks, it is time he thought of sharing some of those great blessings for giving home and doing service for his fellowmen.

He doesn't have to be Mother Teresa incarnate, and he doesn't have to stay forever in this poor hopeless country. He is still so young. A stint or two of helping those who need medical assistance will do much more for his soul and self-fulfillment than all the millions of dollars he can accumulate in the same period. He is a doctor first, then IP second next. Maybe graduates who opted to stay in the country to be of service to better fortunate brethren.

Garcia should be thoroughly ashamed of himself—and so should the hacienda—for painting such a long green shroud him.

—ESTRELLA BALLESTEROS, ms1120@yahoo.com

## Mining for other countries' benefits

THIS IS A REACTION to Kelly Ann Shaddick's letter about the mining operations in Bulacan del Sur. Inquirer, 8/23/08).

Anybody passing through the stretch of highway from Santa Cruz City to Trading City would surely notice Bulacan del Sur's deserted environment.

As an economist, I am totally convinced that the social cost of the mining operations is larger, not less than the social benefits. The big questions that always cross my mind when—even 5 years by the place are:

1. Why are we allowing the mining operations? For whom are we extracting the minerals? Who are we exporting our mineral materials instead of processing them and creating hundred good jobs?

2. Is the mining companies operating in the area here to the proper and required license to their mining operations? Is there any government to extract all the minerals in the soil of Bulacan del Sur?

These points may be limited but they could be draining the province of all its natural wealth.

—PETE HERENA, pmherena@yahoo.com

## Uncanny link between 2 murders

THIS REFERS TO THE NEWS REport "Shaddik 5 take case to rights family" by John M. Sandoy (Inquirer, 8/23/08). The headline is correct, but the story errs in saying that only three Davids were killed. Actually, Davids Kanawan de Jesus of Zamo signed the Aug. 21, 2008 "Open Letter to the Abadilla Family" of the three Bilibid Prison, Muntinlupa City, while the other two, Lloyd de Jesus and Conde Bernardo, did not.

The latter two actually also signed the letter by writing their names and affixing their corresponding signatures on the back copies of the open letter, which even initially prepared for the first three with the assistance of the Legal Assistance and Justice and Bar of PhiO lawyer Abraham C. Ong as seen revealed for Bantuan de Jesus.

Another apparently biased has report on an observation post. Ong of the website of The Asia Human Rights Commission (AHRC) in Hong Kong, Indeed, the AHRC website carried the copy of the open letter that was initially prepared for Lumayag, Lacsa and Kanawan de Jesus. But The same, we are grateful for Amelia's report which calls attention to the plight of the Abadilla 5 who have consistently claimed to be innocent of the Ogerone Chan-style murder killing of Renato Pe Bienvenida Cid Rolando S. Abadilla on June 21, 1991.

The eyewitness itself calls the acquittal of the Abadilla family in two of his personal reports. And they handled to church which were taken by and uncovered from a young evidently reasonable for his life. Ong, Aug. 21, 1991 "Jessica Brigade (AHR). "Those were his Omega wristwatch and .45 caliber pistol, both of which were in the hands of the government. The firm ily should check out these items in Bienvenida's car for the truth behind who really responsible for the murder of their loved one.

It is perhaps pertinent that on the day that the Abadilla 5 signed the open letter—the 20th anniversary of the Aug. 21, 1988 assassination of former Sen. Benigno "Ninoy" Aquino Jr.—the Inquirer featured the first of a seven-part series written by Ex Zamora which named Abadilla among the five principal suspects. Some have labeled the assassination.

How uncanny that link between two assassinations, 17 years apart but both involving Abadilla, that to a plotter and trusted to the victims. Assassinations that were made years in both cases have been asking the respective victim's families to take a closer look at certain pieces of evidence that would point to those clearly behind the assassinations. But will they take it?

—GUILDENCIO L. SANTOS JR., 1414antipolo@yahoo.com, Cubao, Quezon City

## FVR consistent on Charter change

WE REFER TO THE COLUMN OF Atty. L. Mercado re. Joint Congressional Resolution 16 which seeks to convene Congress as a constituent assembly to "fund, fund the Constitution and shift to a federal form of government." (Inquirer, 8/14/08).

On Mercado's reference to the proposed Charter change during the term of former President Fidel V. Ramos, please allow us to correct some errors and clarify the matter.

During his campaign for the presidency FVR had already taken the position that Charter change was needed. In fact, in his inaugural address on June 30, 1992, he declared: "When time is appropriate, I intend to ask Congress to convene itself in a Constituent Assembly to amend the Constitution." Through the years and to this date, FVR has been consistent in his stand, as he has on the amendments he has spoken in few major venues and the underlying reasons for them. The five key reforms did not intend to encompass extension of term limits for anyone or a second term for the president. The former president expounded on the subject in his speeches in various forums here and abroad and in articles he wrote for various publications, as well as in his media interviews.

We quote from FVR's speech at the Rotary Club of Manila meeting on July 7, 2005, which summarized his position:

"Thus, for us to constitute ourselves, to be immediately and even summarily undemocratic. Following the most expeditious means which was provided. Constitution provides—through Congress sitting as a constituent assembly. The highest priority for change must be given the following: one form of government (to go bicameral); because our 15-node presidential system has not really worked for us, bicameralism; the party system, electoral reform; political party reform to include eliminating "turncoatism" and "dynasticism," judicial reform to speed up the dispensation of justice and, in conclusion, economic reforms in response to the higher standards of human development and security propagated by the United Nations in terms of water, food, health, education, livelihood, infrastructure, environment, opportunity and safety."

The No. 147 quoted by Mercado did not emanate from FVR, but is a figure-of-speech attributed by former Speaker Jose de Venecia as to the Charter amendments proposed in the House of Representatives over the years.

—ROCKY AGUSTIN, spokesman, Office of Fidel V. Ramos, Makati City

## PAX supports Among Ed

IN REACTION TO THE FEATURE ARTICLE "Among Ed" (Inquirer, 8/26/08), the Philippine Alliance of Humanists (PAX) wishes to make it known that it stands solidly behind Among Ed and his advocacies.

We cope the good citizens of Pangasinan in for the prompt assistance in giving the divine opportunity to support Among Ed and to lead in the serious, sincere and urgently needed moral transformation of the Filipino people, in and outside government.

Isang bosok ngayon, bukas pe ili-ayos nina, sabay!

Mabuhay ang bagong Pang!

—RAI PAGNOS, RA Malo, Exec. EDS, chair, Political Committee, PAX, hellokrsna@yahoo.com

## Ancestral domain for all

"GUMAO NGANI SILOP-A-ILE, TOO." (Inquirer, 8/28/08). Those are the first words of Mindanao to the Muslims. Isn't given the one to the Ismael.

But then Ole Ignorito would look pitiful. Shouldn't we also give them a part of Luzon? The Province of Batanes, the Municipio of Mt. Arayat and the other such municipalities where may have to wait a while, but let's take a bit of land for them, too.

I'm a Cebuano in Mindanao. I'm afraid I can't claim the Visayas, can I?

—TELESFORO ESTA, ph1fbm@yahoo.com

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# Leyte folk switch to prepaid electricity

By Joey A. Gabieta
Tacloban City

SYVETTE DAGUPON said to spend no less than P1,000 for electricity but since she shifted to the prepaid mode, she just spends an average of P800 per month.

Since then, Dagupon said she could go on vacation for days or even months without paying for the electricity that she had not consumed.

Dagupon is among those who have opted for a prepaid account with the Leyte II Electric Cooperative (Leyeco II) availed of by more than a thousand consumers within the cooperative's coverage area in Tolosa City and the towns of Babatngon and Palo.

"The prepaid metering is convenient for me. I saved a lot. Unlike the conventional ones, you will not be bothered with the thought that you will still pay the monthly minimum though you did not consume any electricity," said Dagupon, a freelance news writer.

All she has to do is switch off the meter to stop the power service before leaving her home.

Dagupon is one of the residents of a subdivision in the city where 248 residents chose the prepaid metering, said subdivision president Edgar Balisa.

Dagupon, a mother of a 3-year-old son, said she bought P1,000 worth of electricity which has an equivalent of 175 kilowatts per hour and good for one-week consumption. Aside from several energy-saving light bulbs, she said she also uses a refrigerator, a computer, a flat iron and electric fans.

"The prepaid system makes us to be conscious of our electricity consumption," Dagupon stated.

In contrast, Belen Bitacuan, a government worker whose residence use prepaid metering, said she has to set aside more than P1,000 for their monthly power consumption.

Her family of seven people has a television, a computer, refrigerator, three electric fans, rice cooker, flat iron, light bulbs and fluorescent lamp.

The prepaid metering system is not new to this city of over 200,000 people, said Hector de Leyeco, Leyeco II external auditor.

He said Leyeco II introduced the system in 1999 as part of its effort to address its huge system loss of tens of millions of pesos.

Just last year, the utility lost "unaccounted kilowatts" due to pilferage amounting to P11 million, he pointed out.

Since the system was introduced among its consumers in 2000, those using the prepaid system have reached 1,000, De Veyra said.

He said the number of prepaid consumers are expected to more than the prepaid ones that number 85,000 as of this month.

Still, Leyeco II considered the program, which is the first of its kind in the country, a success, De Veyra said.

"We don't make it mandatory meaning our members lose out on the 4.6% discount or an option for the conventional system in the billing system," he said.

Buying the electricity under this system is just like buying a "load" for one's cellular phone.

A consumer goes to the Leyeco II office and pays for an electric load of at least P100. Leyeco II gives the consumer a credit number, for example, which has 16 digits.

The consumer then enters the numbers into the meter's keypad. The service is open 24 hours Mondays through Sundays.

A consumer has to shell out P1,000 for the gadgets, keypad and a meter reader (imported from South Africa, the first country in the world to introduce the system, Dr Veyra said.

This is higher than that of the conventional meter at P5,000, which could be paid in installment basis.

The prepaid system also helps reduce the workload of their meter readers since they no longer have to read the meters, Dr Veyra said.

"And of course, we have a 100-percent collection. It is actually cheaper and economical (for both the cooperative and the consumers)," he said.

THE PREPAID metering system consists of a meter reader (left) and a keypad.

# Blue crabs need sanctuary in Negros

By Carla P. Gomez
IB Magallona, Negros Occidental

BARANGAY TOMONGTONG IN IB MAGALLONA town in Negros Occidental has long been known for its bounty of blue crabs, but its residents are now feeling the pinch.

The lucrative industry they had been enjoying are declining because of the low supply of blue crabs (Portunus pelagicus), locally known as "bunog," due to overharvesting and catching juvenile crabs for fishing boats, said Barangay Chair Belly Bonotan. Eighty percent of the 1,717 villagers rely on the highly-priced crustaceans for livelihood, he said.

Barangay councilor Felipe Delgado Jr. said his average catch of 15 kilos a day had dropped to three kilos. That left him with about P200 earnings a day after gasoline and other expenses were deducted, he said.

But sometimes, he said, he would catch 30 to 50 kilos.

Delfa Garin, 48, who has been in the blue crab business for 18 years, said companies exporting crab meat were buying her catch at P160 per kilo.

## Meat picking

From the catchers, the crabs are brought to the plants where their meat is picked out and packed for shipment, mostly to Cebu, for canning and export, according to Manor Ibrahim.

IB Magallona has six blue crab processing plants, he said. One of them, Hibiscale, employs 150 people at peak production and produces 600-700 kilos of crab meat a day, he owner, Rosalito Hibiscala, said. The crab meat is shipped to Cebu and sold to exporters for the US market at P900 to P1,000 a kilo.

But while the plants have provided jobs to many villagers, Lucion said this—along with their earnings—could be lost if they do not protect their resource.

Through the years, the government has conducted seminars to teach the residents how to be discriminating in their catch to preserve the population of the blue crabs, according to Garin.

Fishermen were educated on the need to keep the crustaceans from propagating by allowing the return to sea of juveniles or of gravid crabs (eggbearing crabs) that had not yet spawned, said Antonio Nicum, the municipal fishery officer.

But since the opening of the east export market for crab meat, more people have plunged into the business, including fishing families from the neighboring towns of IB Magallona who have not gone through crab conservation seminars.

The blue crabs that are abundant in Tomongtong are particularly sought-after because they are tastier than other crabs, Nicum said. Their habitat is the coastal village is soft and muddy with a lot of algae, he said.

To fully improve the habitat of the crabs, said the barangay chiefs and brown mussels they feed on, the villagers have stopped up mangrove reforestation, said Antonio Malvares, a former village chief of Tomongtong.

Also, the mangroves prevented the further erosion of the coastal land that were slowly being eaten up by the sea.

## Crab sanctuary

While the name of Tomongtong is synonymous with blue crabs, IB Magallona's municipal Liaison is Dull has blue crabs, too, according to Lucion.

To ensure that the resources will continue to thrive, Lucion proposes the establishment of a 10-square-kilometer sanctuary for gravid crabs in "balantakan" from Lakemon to Pasil that will be off-limits to fishermen for five to 10 years.

It has will allow undisturbed spawning and ensure the propagation of blue crabs, he said.

"We will explain the benefits of a crab sanctuary to marginal fishermen, provide them outfit alternative livelihoods and build heritage on the marine," Lucion said.

He said the municipal government was enforcing rues ordinances prohibiting and penalizing the catching of gravid crabs and juveniles or crablets.

A Provincial Blue Crab Fishery Ordinance is also in the pipeline to limit the catching, trading, buying and processing of gravid blue crabs and crablets. Fishers are not allowed to catch and sell gravid blue crabs and blue crabs that have not reached the average size of maturity, or crabs with measurement of below 11 centimeters.

Under the ordinance, fishers cannot use gill nets to catch the crabs with stretched mesh size of less than 11 cm, and to engage in blue crab fishery without licenses from the municipal government.

The ordinance was adopted to ensure continuity of an industry that is vital to the economy of the province.

Blue crabs is the state's most important fishery export in the country, records from the Negros Occidental provincial fishery office showed. Western Visayas, particularly the Visayan Sea and the Guimaras Strait, is the highest producer of blue crabs, followed by the Bohol Sea.

Former IB Magallona Mayor Alfonso Gandiosa said the proposed crab sanctuary was welcome news.

"The establishment of a sanctuary, backed up by scientific data, will preserve the breeding stock. We have passed one ordinance and it is in our municipal fisheries code," said Gandiosa, a staunch environmental advocate.

"Strict enforcement and political will is needed. Mangrove preservation and propagation is crucial," he said.

Gandiosa also said that in order to preserve the crabs, restaurants should remove crablets from their menus. "Ban is the first and crucial step," he said.

The media can help by informing people that those serving crablets are not environment-friendly and must not be patronized, Gandiosa said.

> Gamboa also said that in order to preserve the crabs, restaurants should remove crablets from their menus

Republic of the Philippines
DEPARTMENT OF LABOR AND EMPLOYMENT
National Capital Region
DOLE NCR Building, 697 Marquina St., Manila, Manila

NOTICE OF FILING OF APPLICATION/S FOR ALIEN EMPLOYMENT PERMIT/S (AEP/S)

| Name and address of Company/Employer | Name of Foreign National/Nationality | Position |
|---|---|---|
| [illegible] | [illegible] | [illegible] |

RAYMUNDO G. ALMARIO
DOLE Regional Director

Across the NATION

# Fear of bigger war hurting traders

## Sales down as gov't pursues MILF men

DIPOLOG CITY—TRADERS AND BUSINESSMEN in Mindanao are starting to hurt from the effects of continuing clashes between government forces and separatist Moro guerrillas, calling for an immediate cessation of hostilities to save business on the island from total collapse.

Muslim traders, those who survive on daily sales, are complaining of a drop in earnings by as much as 50 percent.

Lyneth Dongo, who sells rubber a stall at the public market here, said since the fighting escalated, customers come in trickles as "most of them are saving their money in preparation for worst things to come."

Dongo said she now earns barely enough to pay for her stall's rent and couldn't spare money for her family's daily needs.

The clashes' effects also manifested themselves in relations between Muslim and Christian traders, according to her.

"I feel a slight tension between Christian and Muslim traders here, and fear that this will eventually worsen into hatred between the two religious groups," she said.

She added that she dreads the thought of Muslim traders being hounded as "terrorists-to-be" as a result of threats brought about by the government campaign against rogue members of the Moro Islamic Liberation Front.

"We want to live peacefully here in this city and hope that our capabilities to protect-loving people will not be tarnished," she said.

Dipolog Mindanao Traders, vice president of the Tanil-Town Chamber of Commerce said the government and the MILF must immediately stop the war and iron out "kinks" in the draft of the ancestral domain agreement.

"Whether we like it or not, the problem is there and we have to address it judiciously because neither totally vanishing the problem, the entire country, particularly the people of Mindanao, will further move in this," Hideo said.

Hideo, who is engaged in industrial plantation and the trading of consumer goods in Tanil Town, said because of the fighting, the flow of economic support might be stopped, particularly by Muslim exploiters, because there is no more likely to be branded as "pseudo-legit."

At least 500 business players met gathered in the city for the 17th Mindanao Business Conference, the annual gathering of the business community in the island region.

The conference seeks to address the island-region's economic agenda and is a platform for concerns and ideas that will go into the drafting of a "Mindanao Business Policy Agenda."

At the conference, Edgar Lacson, president of the Philippine Chamber of Commerce and Industry, called on the government and MILF to refuse to negotiations.

"The news about the reinforcements overseas worries us. Talking in Mindanao, resulting in death, destruction, and suffering of many displaced refugees cannot be ignored," he said.

He said it was best for the fighting parties to await the Supreme Court ruling on the MOA-AD, whose signing was aborted by a temporary restraining order from the high court.

He said those responsible for atrocities should be brought to justice, but war was not the solution.

"The all-out war between brothers will have no victors, just victims," he said.

"The Ginoochil, as well as the social cost, of the war is incalculable," said Lacson.

"Let us all be partners in putting areas of conflict in the region. In the path of stability and order, under one flag, where the rights and properties of all are respected and justice is applied equally for everyone," added Lacson. Linda Bodjie, Inquirer Mindanao

WHO COULD be farthest from the streets of these Muslim children in Cebu City, who join other Muslims at the South Reclamation Project in the city. The city has a sizable community of Muslims. —EDGAR SUSADA

Republic of the Philippines
DEPARTMENT OF LABOR AND EMPLOYMENT
Regional Office No. IV-A
[illegible] Batangas City
Telefax No. (043) 980-0050

August 28, 2008

NOTICE OF FILING OF APPLICATIONS FOR ALIEN EMPLOYMENT PERMITS (AEP/S)

Notice is hereby given that the following companies/employers have filed with this Regional Office applications for Alien Employment Permit/s.

| Name and Address of Employer/Position | Name of Foreign National/Country | Position |
|---|---|---|
| 1. SHINSEI KEIRYO PHILIPPINES CORPORATION [illegible] Calamba City | Mr. Kenya Tanimoto/Japanese | Business Management Senior Manager |
| 2. [illegible] PHILIPPINE BRANCH [illegible] | Mr. Tetsuo Iwakuki/Japanese | Engineering Consultant |
| 3. [illegible] | Mr. Jukei Tao/ Korean | Production Manager |
| 4. SUN LEISURE TECHNOLOGY, INC. [illegible] | Mr. Tomomi Inagaki/ Japanese | Trainer |
| 5. FASTING DE TECH CORPORATION OF LAS PIÑAS [illegible] | Mr. Kuniaga Ikeda/ Japanese | Administration Department Head/General Manager |

If you have any information objection to the above-mentioned application please contact us with the Regional Director.

ATTY. RICARDO S. MARTINEZ JR., CESO III
Regional Director

# Pungent vitameal safe, nutritious, says DOH

BAGUIO CITY—OFFICIALS OF THE Department of Health in the Cordillera said the vitameal, a cereal mixture being distributed along with the government's feeding program for school pupils in Abra and Mt. Province, is a registered product with the Bureau of Food and Drugs.

Dr. Amelita Pangilinan, chief of the health operations division of the DOH Cordillera, allayed fears raised by women's groups about the safety of the vitameal, saying its distribution had been welcomed in some public schools in Cordillera.

"Vitameal is safe and it is very nutritious. In fact, we have received positive feedback from Mindanao that it is a nice nutritious-but-ordinary soup being served in feeding programs in public schools," Pangilinan said.

The food—a combination of legumes, dehydrated vegetables and other grains—and which is being served in feeding programs to some public elementary schools in Mt. Province and Abra, became the object of criticism of mothers who attended the recent regional conference of the women's group Kaisdurog Gabriela.

The vitameal, they said, replaced the government's oncologram rice subsidy whose classes ceased in June.

The women said they were dismayed because the vitameal was pungent and tasted bitter or sour.

They said the products distributed in some schools in their provinces were packaged in transparent plastic bags and had no labels.

Dr. Myrna Cabotaje, DOH Cordillera director, said the vitameal is registered with BFAD as a rice and lentil meal. This is being supplied and distributed by a nongovernment organization.

"We are still awaiting an official statement from the National Nutrition Council about the product," Cabotaje said in text message. Desiree Cabana, Inquirer Northern Luzon

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# East Visayas fights calamity effects, hikes rice yields

By Vicente S. Labao
Inquirer Visayas

TACLOBAN CITY—DESPITE CALAMITIES like shrunk Region People early this year, palay and Cebuy production in the region increased during the first semester of 2008.

The production of palay included rice during the first six months of this year reached 565,174 metric tons (MT), more than 10 percent higher than the 509,600 MT produced in the first semester of 2007, the National Statistical Coordination Board (NSCB) reported.

Leo Cabada, regional executive director of the Department of Agriculture, attributed the increased production to the farmers' continued planting of high yield rice varieties and the government subsidies that encouraged farmers to plant more.

Cabada also noted that farmers in Eastern Samar and Leyte, which were badly hit by Hondo last February and a typhoon last June, were able to recover from the calamities as a result of good irrigation.

He added that the value of growth is also higher because the first semester data reflected the results of the November-April cropping season, which is the major cropping season in the region.

Cabada also expressed optimism that the region would support its rice production target of 1.02 million MT for the year 2008.

The NSCB data also showed that the Eastern Visayas' production reached 112,268 MT in the first semester, higher by five percent than the 107,000 MT production recorded last year.

Jasmine Gonzales, assistant regional director of the Bureau of Fisheries and Aquatic Resources, in Tacloy attributed the growth of the fishery sector to the increasing production in aquaculture, especially in grouper farms in Gubcan, Eastern Samar, and the mudcrab-rice farms in Albuera, Leyte, that has 1,050 fish cages.

# Now Aussies admit music faked at Sydney Olympics opening

SYDNEY—EIGHT YEARS AFTER it hosted an Olympics that was famously hailed as the "best games ever," Sydney has had to confess that it faked one of the most memorable performances at the opening ceremony in 2000.

The revelation came after it emerged that 9-year-old Lin Miaoke was just lip-synching when she "sang" a patriotic song before 91,000 people and a global television audience during the Aug. 8 opening ceremony in the Beijing Games.

Orchestra bosses have admitted that the Sydney Symphony Orchestra (SSO) missed its entire performance at the ceremony, and that some of the vocal music in fact resembled that of an international superstar.

It was all pre-recorded and the SSO (Melbourne Symphony Orchestra) did record a minority of the music that was performed," SSO managing director Libby Christie told Australia's Fairfax newspapers earlier this week.

"It's correct that we were basically miming to a pre-recording," she said.

The suspected orchestra gave the fake performance because Olympics organizers "wanted to leave nothing to chance" and a second orchestra was found to record the backing tape because of a "reconstruction workload" in Sydney Christie said.

The admission has caused stirs in Melbourne—which has a longstanding rivalry with Sydney—covering over the fact that its musicians ghosted a crucial performance by their arch-rivals.

The head of the MSO confirmed that performance had been pre-recorded but defended the move, saying it was "purely a workload issue" and in no way reflected on the relative quality of either orchestra.

"It's nothing to do with primitive or vehicle orchestra to have it was decided to split [the work] between the two orchestras," he said.

"It's quite a normal practice and if the Olympics had been in Melbourne, the Sydney Symphony would have been involved...The core of that," Christie said the Sydney orchestra had every reason to be proud of its performance but had done so at the 2000 Rugby World Cup in Sydney, while the SSO said it had used a backing tape at the opening ceremony of the 2006 Commonwealth Games.

Beijing Olympic officials were on the defensive two weeks ago when it was revealed that pigtailed Lin Miaoke, who became a celebrity in China after her performance, had not actually done the singing.

It later emerged the real voice belonged to chubby 7-year-old Yang Peiyi, who was deemed not attractive enough to go on stage, and that the switch was ordered by a politburo member of China's ruling Communist party. AFP

# Obama proves no dream is too high

From page A1

ty, the down-to-earth promise of hope," Obama said. He put himself in the shadow of great leaders like John F. Kennedy, Franklin Roosevelt and Martin Luther King Jr., as well as his humble parents.

His speech before an exuberant crowd of 84,000 at Invesco Field in Denver was the culminating moment of the Democrats' four-day convention, the launching point for a grueling fall campaign against John McCain.

When it was over, Obama stood before the cheering crowd, the waving flags surrounded by family and friends, and basked in the moment. It followed an exhilarating route to the party's full embrace by its rank-and-file challenge ahead. Going into the evening, Obama was embattled—a bus tour of Midwestern battleground states where he is running close with McCain.

It could not be a coincidence that Obama, trying to help skyrocketing fuel considerable with the notion of him in the Oval Office, spoke before a backdrop of columns reminiscent of those on the White House portico.

**45th year of 'I Have a Dream'**

The stakes could not have been higher—for the future of this campaign and the pace of racial politics. It came on the 45th anniversary of one of the greatest speeches in American history, King's "I Have a Dream" address.

Eyeing ex-icons down the hope of the giant southern extravaganza, Obama gave unknown Americans from battleground states a prime-time spotlight to explain their struggles and how the candidate could help them.

And Obama himself highlighted the stories of working class Americans, the kinds of voters who have espoused messages of his campaign—a woman about to retire in Ohio worried about healthcare costs, the Indiana worker who lost his job to competition from China, the veteran living on the streets or in poverty, the military families in the midst of repeat tours of duty.

Obama said he saw his World War II veteran grandfather in the faces of veterans returning from Iraq and Afghanistan, veterans who had come home to inadequate healthcare and mental health services.

He saw in the faces of the young people graduating from college with debt and no jobs, the faces of families struggling to pay the bills and save for retirement, and he saw in the faces of those who have lost their jobs, their homes and their savings the faces of people who deserve better.

**Something is stirring**

"I get it," Obama said. "I realize that I am not the likeliest candidate for this office. I don't fit the typical pedigree, and I haven't spent my career in the halls of Washington. But I stand before you tonight because all across America something is stirring. What the naysayers don't understand is that this election has never been about me. It's been about you."

For those voters with another concern—that a first-term senator who just launched a 42-state campaign is not experienced enough to lead the country—Obama had an answer. He, in a list of policy proposals that he argued would improve their lives. He promised no cuts that would benefit workers, no end to dependence on Middle East oil, more funding for education, healthcare for every American and an end to the war in Iraq.

"America, now is not the time for small plans," Obama said.

**Taking on McCain**

And he tried to raise concerns about McCain, by saying he was not much like the unpopular President George W. Bush.

"I don't always agree with my friend John McCain. He's known and with George Bush 90 percent of the time," Obama said. "I don't know about you, but I'm not ready to take a 10-percent chance on change."

With the nomination in hand, Obama could afford to come—if only for a moment—as self-assured as the pair that took him from unheard-of long shot at the Democratic convention just four years ago to the party's standard-bearer this time and a symbol of hope to millions of Americans yearning for change.

**Transformation**

Obama himself took note of the transformation.

"Nine years ago, I stood before you and told you my story—of the brief union between a young man from Kenya and a young woman from Kansas who weren't well-off or well-known—but shared a belief that in America, their son could achieve whatever he put his mind to." AP

# At peace with Bill and Hillary . . .

From page A1

time that might have been better spent defining their own McCain.

In the end, they succeeded by achieving some measure of parity among with both Obamas playing rousing speeches on the convention floor and Hillary Clinton in a heating battle for the party nomination.

"It seemed to me that the Clintons did what they needed to do," said Democratic strategist Jim Duffy. "She's now in a position like the last two days were more about them than him."

**Rock concert feel**

When Obama's turn came to address his convention, he did not lecture or recount a story about 75,000 supporters at the Denver Broncos' pro football stadium, sounding in front of much Greek-style pillars that gave the evening a rock concert feel.

Republicans called the big show an act of hubris expected of a candidate they denounced as a celebrity, but the stadium gamble allowed the Obama campaign to offer some powerful imagery for Americans and drove a big Colorado crowd in a state considered an important battleground in the Nov. 4 election.

**Tough attack**

Urged by Democratic leaders to toughen up the attacks on McCain, Obama did just that, calling him out of touch, an analyst of unpopular Republican President George W. Bush and misguided on foreign policy.

Obama attacked a central premise of McCain's campaign, that McCain was a foreign policy expert needed in a dangerous world.

His tendency to concentrate on the Iraq war more than on Afghanistan and Pakistan, Obama said, mirrored McCain with a phrase McCain liked to use about chasing down al-Qaida leader Osama bin Laden.

"John McCain likes to say that he'll follow bin Laden to the Gates of Hell...but he won't even go to the cave where he lives," Obama said.

**More acceptable**

Larry Sabato, a political science professor at the University of Virginia, said he would rank the Democrats' 2008 convention about in the middle of the 37 of both parties he had attended, and that given four days to define McCain, that was done in only two of those days.

"They were able to make Obama more acceptable and to answer some measure of party unity, but they never defined John McCain in terms that will help them in the fall," Sabato said.

Republican Ari McCain got off relatively easy.

"I think McCain was able to, thanks to the Clintons, reconstruct his role in the process this week," said Republican strategist Scott Reed.

**Rove tactics of fear, unsay**

Indeed, some speakers spent more time setting scores with the Bush-Cheney administration, including the two chiefs who had to Bush. Al Gore in 2000 and John Kerry in 2004.

Speaking on Wednesday night, Kerry settled the tactics that ex-Bush aide Karl Rove had used against him and strained these same tactics were being used by McCain, who has popularized his campaign with some former Bush aides.

"Senator McCain, who once called against the smears of Karl Rove when he was the target, has morphed into candidate McCain who is using the same 'Rove' tactics and the same 'Rove' tariff to square the same old politics of fear and smears. Well, not this year, not this time," Kerry said.

Gore, who many Democrats believe should have won the disputed 2000 election, stood in the stadium on Thursday and delivered what might have been if he had won.

"This is Gore me, if it had ended differently we would not be bogged down in Iraq, we would have pursued bin Laden until we captured him," Gore said. Reuters

# Senga is envoy to Iran after 2 yrs . . .

From page A1

received the appointment papers of Senga as the country's new ambassador to Iran, Cebu Rep. Eduardo Gullas said yesterday.

Except for Senga, all the 609 chiefs under the Aquino administration were given civilian appointments soon after they left office.

The other Senga AFP chiefs serving in governments are: Heherson Alvarez (AFP chief from July 2006–January 2008), presidential adviser on the peace process; Efren Abu (October 2004–August 2005), special envoy to Brunei, Indonesia, Malaysia, Philippines-East ASEAN Growth Area (BIMP-EAGA); Narciso Abaya (April 2003–October 2004), president of Bases Conversion and Development Authority; Diosdado Santiago (November 2002–April 2003), director general of Philippine Drug Enforcement Agency (PDEA); Roy Cimatu (May 2001–September 2002) special envoy to the Middle East; Angelo Reyes (July 1999–March 2001) energy secretary.

Gullas, the head of the House contingent to the bicameral CA, said the 58-year-old Senga would also have diplomatic jurisdiction over the former Soviet republics north of Uzbekistan—Tajikistan and Uzbekistan.

Iran is host to over 1,200 overseas Filipino workers most of whom are employed in oil and other energy-related projects. Iran is the world's fourth largest oil exporter, after Saudi Arabia, Russia and Norway.

Senga succeeded Roman chief of staff from Aug. 15, 2003, to July 24, 2008.

It was during Senga's term when President Macapagal-Arroyo declared a state of national emergency from Feb. 24 to March 3, 2006, supposedly to suppress a coup attempt by disgruntled officers.

According to Gullas, Malacañang has also endorsed to the CA—for the nomination papers of Rizalino Buenaventura and Antonio Garcia.

Buenaventura has been appointed new ambassador to Norway, also with jurisdiction over Denmark and Iceland.

Garcia, on the other hand, has been tapped as the next ambassador to Venezuela, also with jurisdiction over Trinidad and Tobago.

**86 appointees pending**

There are now 86 appointees awaiting for confirmation by the CA—29 are new appointees while 57 are ex-appointees, said Gullas.

Officials whose appointments or re-appointments are pending CA confirmation include three Cabinet members: Press Secretary Jesse Dureza, Energy Secretary Angelo Reyes and Environment Secretary Jose Atienza Jr.

Three election commissioners—Leonardo Leonardo, Lucenito Tagle and Maderina Macarimbos—have yet to be confirmed as well.

The 1987 Constitution gives the CA power to approve or disapprove presidential appointments.

This is part of the checks and balances provided for by the Constitution to ensure that the executive branch functions efficiently for the public interest.

Some officials subject to CA confirmation are the heads of executive departments, ambassadors, other public ministers and consuls, military officers from the rank of colonel or naval captain, and the heads and members of constitutional commissions and offices. With Belle Pedroso, Inquirer Research

# Wer na u? Yo . . .

From page A1

mobile phone companies.

The Philippine Long Distance Telephone group estimates that the 11 million subscribers of Smart and Globe Tel will collectively send 300 million to 600 million text messages a day. That means the average subscriber of the PLDT group text sent 15 to 18 text messages on the cellular phone per day.

**1 billion texts per day**

The group's combined incoming and outgoing traffic is calculated to be around 1 billion text messages per day.

On the other hand, the average subscriber of Sun Cellular sends some 30 to 35 text messages per day, while some 6.5 million subscribers as of end-June, the network has been handling up to 500 million outgoing text messages every day.

Globe Telecom Inc. did not provide an estimate for its outgoing traffic, but previously said that its network handled 300 to 700 million incoming and outgoing messages per day.

Its subscriber base as of end-June was 22.7 million.

Numbers from the National Telecommunications Commission (NTC) were more conservative.

According to the rules regulating the Philippines' average cellular phone user sends about 10 text messages a day.

**Unlimited text promos**

NTC Commissioner Gamaliel Cordoba said in an interview that "10 text messages a day was very conservative" considering the popularity of unlimited text promos. But even with this modest estimate, it was still one of the highest in the world, he said.

"In terms of total volume, other countries may have higher numbers because of population size. But per capita, the Philippines has one of the highest volume of text activity, if not the highest," Cabarrus said.

Cordoba said cellphone telcos offered unlimited text promos, still phone users sent an average of seven text messages per day.

# Palace ₱230-B infra fund 'in aid . . .

From page A1

By category, the biggest slice of the infrastructure budget pie will go to the construction of roads and bridges (₱81.9 billion).

This does not include the 96 billion worth of farm-to-market roads that will be constructed by the Department of Agriculture (₱6.27 billion) and Department of Agrarian Reform (₱1.43 billion).

The infrastructure funds will also go to the following: irrigation (₱13.3 billion); new airports and improvement of existing ones (₱7.6 billion); to subsidize the installation or repair of navigational facilities and other aviation safety; railway assist (₱4.2 billion); PHIVOLCS (lots of other) will go to the **national requirements of the Light Rail Transit Line 1 North Extension Project** to extend the system to Cavite, and ₱1.41 billion for the operational requirements of the Metro Rail Transit 3's classrooms (₱6.24 billion) to build at least 11,486 classrooms and 700 science and information technology laboratories, and ₱1.3 billion in supply potable water to barangays.

**Top 10 agencies**

The infrastructure funds are built into the proposed budget allocations for 2009 of the different departments and agencies. Of the infrastructure-implementing agencies, education, public works and highways, local governments and agriculture and agrarian reform were among the top 10 agencies in terms of the size of their allocations for 2009.

Of the implementing agencies, the public works department has been allocated ₱89.72 billion for infrastructure, including ₱7.3 billion for the repair or construction of seawalls and flood control systems; transportation and communications department, ₱34.85 billion, which includes ₱13.1 million for the repair of ports and lighthouses; the agriculture department, with ₱27.3 billion; the education department with ₱8.52 billion; social welfare department, with ₱1.16 billion.

NEWS

# Extra funds for Defense eyed

By Norman Bordadora

BUDGET SECRETARY ROLANDO ANDAYA JR. has asked Congress to re-align some of the allocations in the proposed P1.415-trillion national budget for 2009 to increase the share of the Department of National Defense.

Andaya, who chaired the House budget committee when he was congressman, explained the need for more defense funding in the context of the ongoing military operations against the secessionist Moro Islamic Liberation Front and the crash of an Air Force C-130 plane in Davao City last Monday.

"This is a reasonable request, but we actually lost 50 percent of our air transport capability. I heard we only have two C-130s," he said.

Andaya said when the budget proposal was being put together, the incidents in Mindanao had not yet happened.

But since then the AFP has gone relentless in its targets in Central Mindanao provinces after the aborted signing of a memorandum of agreement on ancestral domain that would have created a separate Bangsamoro state.

Under the expenditure program proposed for 2009, the defense department has been allocated P63.3 billion, the fourth highest after education (P167.9 billion), public works and highways (P120 billion), and local government (P61.970 billion).

Andaya did not say how much more would be needed in the wake of the AFP-MNLF loss of aircraft and the military operations in Mindanao, but said "we would welcome any realignment or amendment made by Congress to that effect."

Andaya, who submitted the budget proposal to the House last Wednesday, said the budget department has been printing the proposed budget for some two weeks already.

Quirino Rep. Junie Cua, the chair of the House appropriations committee, said the House would conduct a performance audit of each executive department, and the findings would be used in scrutinizing the agency allocations for 2009.

"We did it last year. There's no reason we cannot do it again," Cua said.

Speaker Prospero Nograles said the House would conduct a performance audit of each executive department, and the findings would be used in scrutinizing the agency allocations for 2009.

# GMA, Kenney no-show in Mindanao business meet

ARROYO

DAVAO CITY—President Macapagal-Arroyo failed to show up here yesterday for the final day of the 17th Mindanao Business Conference 2008 (mcon), one of the most important gathering of business leaders from Mindanao and other parts of the country.

Another key figure who failed to show up, for health reasons, was US Ambassador Kristie Kenney.

Traditionally, the President is invited to close the conference and to receive the Mindanao Business Policy Agenda, a set of policy resolutions and private sector commitments to advance the region's economic agenda.

But business leaders said they understood why the President failed to attend this year's gathering as guest of honor and keynote speaker.

It was not immediately known why Ms Arroyo failed to come.

"We understand her position being the chief executive of the country and she is needed for the more pressing issues that need her immediate attention," said Rosa Hau, conference chair and vice president of the Philippine Chamber of Commerce and Industry (PCCI) for Mindanao.

### Other concerns

Hau added that "with the critical situation the country is facing right now, the President must have been addressing some other important concerns."

Hau said she was referring to the military offensives against the so-called rogue members of the Moro Islamic Liberation Front (MILF), which have already displaced more than 200,000 residents from conflict-affected areas in Mindanao.

Edgardo Angeles, president of the Davao Chamber of Commerce and Industry, shared Hau's position.

He said that the non-appearance of the President before the conference did not mean a lukewarm commitment of the government to the issues and concerns of Mindanao's business community.

"In these critical times, we do understand that the government is facing other concerns, but I am still optimistic that the President will take actions on the policies that we have presented during the conference," he added.

### Mindanao agenda

Among the policies presented during the event were a unified private sector-led development agenda for Mindanao agriculture, fisheries, and the food industry, a support to Mindanao's human resources development, the forging of a strong private-public sector partnership to develop a world-class Mindanao tourism industry and to accelerate infrastructure development in Mindanao through increased budgetary allocations and efficient use of resources.

Mindanao businessmen also wanted the government to ensure efficient ports and shipping services in Mindanao to accelerate the development of an environmentally and socially sustainable mining industry in the region.

About 300 key business leaders and stakeholders attended the event, which highlighted the business and investment opportunities in the region. *Louis Biolaja with a report from Grace Alfredo, Inquirer Mindanao*

Aplus METRO
Editor Ester G. Dipasupil

# Villar bodyguards may not face maul raps

## MetroBriefs

### Suspected military agents on PUP campus

TENSION rose yesterday at the Polytechnic University of the Philippines after four military intelligence agents were caught allegedly undertaking surveillance operations on student leaders during a program inside the school's Sta. Mesa campus in Manila. The men were identified as Jacob Sta. Maria, Nestor Feliciano, Emmanuel Balmaceda and Jerry Allen Tayo. Jimmy Tio, chief of Manila Police District Station 6, claimed the students became unruly and even beat up Allen, prompting him to call members of the MPD Special Weapons and Tactics. Bonifacio national chair Ken Ramos (secretary-general of Central Student Council chair Antonio Tayao) were summoned in the release of one of the suspected agents. The men refused to talk or even give their names to the students who were later able to get the information from the police who detained the suspects. "They refused to tell us their motives. But it was clear that they intended to spy on and intimidate us," Ramos said. Ellalyn B. Sombero

### 'Dating Daan' head faces falsification charge

ANG DATING Daan leader Orson "Sly" Soriano and two others were charged with falsification of public document in the Manila City Prosecutor's office yesterday for allegedly taking a certificate of detention in order to cancel bail for his rape charges against him. The Church of God International Supreme Head, who was indicted for the alleged rape of a male follower, was cited for violation of Art. 171 of the Revised Penal Code with PO3 Jane Sumaria of Station 10 in Pandacan and brother-woman Belen Talentado in the complaint filed by the Criminal Investigation Detection Group-Manila on Thursday. CIDG Manila chief Supt. Joaquin Vino said their investigation showed that Soriano (when summoned) could not be arrested or detained at the Pasay police station on June 21, but a certificate of detention was still issued on his behalf by Sumaria. Allison M. Lopez

### Grisly discovery inside taxi cab

A 45-YEAR-OLD Cebu driver made a startling discovery yesterday after a passenger disembarked from his cab without paying his fare in Quezon City. Wilfredo Tendillo, driver of Ogie Taxi and a resident of Novaliches, found two guns with shoulder and holsters, floating in chocolate on the floor of the rear passenger seat of his vehicle. Tendillo immediately turned over the guns to the Quezon City Police District Kamuning police station 1-D. He said a passenger in his early 20s had flagged him down on Ligaya Street in Mariblo, Pasay City and asked him to stop at an automated teller machine along Aurora Boulevard in Cubao so he could withdraw money. The man disappeared shortly after. Cleared of his fare, Tendillo decided to wait at a hotel parking lot on Mother Ignacia Avenue. He found the guns while he was cleaning his cab. QCPD investigators turned over the guns to the Philippine National Police Crime Laboratory for examination. Jeannette I. Andrade

### Del Pilar bust turned over to journalists

A BUST of Filipino patriot Marcelo H. del Pilar, a.k.a. Plaridel, made by Bonifacio Cando, assistant of renowned sculptor Guillermo Tolentino, will be turned over to the Samahang Plaridel—the association of veteran journalists, editors, publishers and communicators—today as part of the 108th birth anniversary celebration of the acknowledged patriot of Filipino journalism. The bronze was recently unveiled by Senator Jinna Ejercito, a collector of Philippiniana memorabilia. Manila Mayor Alfredo Lim, other city officials and Samahang Plaridel officers will also lay wreaths at the Plaridel monument at 5 a.m. today at Plaza Plaridel in Manila. Former Press Secretary and Samahang Plaridel vice chair Rodolfo "Jun" Reyes will read a tribute to Del Pilar while Secretary Jesse Robredo will represent President Gloria Macapagal Arroyo. Chair and president Rolando S. Dulalio said they would add the bust to the growing collection of historical memorabilia on Del Pilar.

## Scared of the Ilaga

THE ILAGA, AN ARMED group of Christian farmers and settlers in Mindanao, is back and the Moro rebels are scared. Very scared.

The Moro Islamic Liberation Front (MILF) knows the capability of the Ilaga to match violence with violence.

Some members of the Ilaga are veterans of the Moro-Christian wars of the 1970s.

Stories of Ilaga exploits to their area of operations in the Cotabato province in the 1970s and of how Moro rebels aspired or killed by the group, were swallowed and their tassels worn by some illiterate Christian rightists.

* * *

The Ilaga was formed in the 1970s to protect Christian communities from attacks by rebels of the Moro National Liberation Front (MNLF).

The MILF was still non-existent during that time.

The armed group not only protected Christian areas from the MNLF, the Ilaga, like other Christian armed groups, prevented the Moros from overrunning the islands of Mindanao.

Ferdinand Marcos' military was caught unprepared for an all-out war with the Moros at the time.

It had to recruit and train soldiers to fight in Mindanao.

While the Armed Forces of the Philippines was recruiting and training troops in Luzon, the Ilaga and other Christian armed groups, with their crude weapons, fought the well-armed MNLF.

The Moros, Dabbing Christians were outrage, were shocked by the savagery of the enemy.

Reports of atrocities and massacres committed by the Ilaga against Moro rebels and civilians to avenge a similar fate of their fellow Christians reached Muslim countries in the Middle East.

The Muslim countries, from where we get most of our oil supply, strongly protested the reported atrocities against the Moros.

Marcos' martial law government, scared of an oil boycott from the Middle East countries, had to restrain the Ilaga and other Christian vigilante groups.

To appease the Muslim countries, Marcos outlawed the Ilaga and other vigilante groups that his military helped to form and arm.

* * *

I was amused by a comment from a reader that I should dig up about what's happening in Mindanao because I don't know the whys and wherefores of the insurgency problem.

I thank the reader for his comments, seen through the Internet, but let me inform him that I'm also from Mindanao like him.

Born and raised in Mindanao, I grew up mostly in military camps in the provinces of Sulu, Lanao and Cotabato.

## Cops not certain if victim will file complaint

By DJ Yap

THE BODYGUARDS OF PRESIDENTIAL ANTI-smuggling Group (PASG) chief Antonio "Bebot" Villar might not be charged at all for the alleged mauling last week of a businessman in a Makati hotel.

The police raised this possibility yesterday as Supt. Manuel Santos, chief of the Makati police investigation division, said the case would not prosper unless the victim was known on pressing charges.

Santos said in an interview that the lawyer of businessman Glenon Pin said she was not sure if her client would file charges.

"The lawyer just told us to prepare what we're supposed to prepare. It seems they have not made up their minds. It's still possible they could settle this out of court," he said.

The police have yet to identify the men who beat up Pin, 44, in the lobby of Dusit Hotel on Aug. 19 that led to his hospitalization and temporary memory loss.

Makati police chief Senior Supt. Gilbert Cruz said they were continuing their efforts to identify the suspects, allegedly Villar's bodyguards. He said he was asking the Police Security and Protection Office for photos of Villar's escorts.

Asunto said witnesses, including the hotel security guards, would be provided photos to identify the suspects. Only after the witnesses had identified the suspects would their names be given, Asunto said.

Further, Virgilio Bruco, PASG legal counsel, told Cruz that Villar's bodyguards would appear before the police only after formal charges are filed against them.

## Amulets found in shootout suggest link with rob groups

By DJ Yap and Sweetly T. Navistad

THE SUSPECTED ROBBERS who engaged the police in a gunfight Thursday in Makati City have yet to be named, but the police said they have several clues about their identities.

PO2 Marvin Balang of the Makati police anti-Scud Company, who was identified by the police later as Jimmy Espina, never killed in the incidents.

The police later recovered at the crime scene amulets the suspects apparently wore. The items were similar to those worn by suspects in the P2.7 million heist in June on GF Payne Avenue. Two suspects were killed in that incident.

National Capital Region Police Office Director Geary Barias said it was highly probable that the suspects in Thursday's incident belonged to the same group involved in the June robbery. He said an initial investigation indicated that the group came from Ocampo City.

"Whether they are remnants of the Kamagong thinking or Amigang Colangco groups, we do not know," Barias said in a press conference yesterday in the Makati police headquarters.

Policemen from the cities of Makati, Muntinlupa and Quezon are working together to arrest the suspects.

The police arrest on patrol duty when the gunfight occurred. Balang's team noticed a van parked on Makati Avenue. Balang approached the vehicle but the suspects opened fire.

The suspected robbers alighted by grabbed Balang's M16 Armalite rifle. Balang's partner, PO3 Bonnet Salcedo, returned fire with his shotgun and killed Espina.

The police chased the van to Muntinlupa City where it was abandoned by the suspects. Three "baby" M16 Armalites, Balang's rifle and a grenade launcher were recovered by police.

# 'Syento Porsyento Gawang Pilipino'

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## World-class furniture with that distinct Filipino touch

LOOKING FOR A COMFORTABLE BED FOR once room? Or a cozy and comfortable sofa set for your living room? Are you considering refurnishing your whole house? It's about time to visit Home and Lifestyle Gallery at Pasadena.

Home & Lifestyle has been manufacturing Filipino-made quality furniture for more than 20 years. It is known for its contemporary yet modern designs of solid wood furniture. It offers not only eclectic variety of Danish designs but also high-quality solid wood and housewares. It also offers free interior design consultation to help achieve the lifestyle look that its customers want. The product line expands not only to home furniture but also to hotels, condominiums, restaurants, office furnishings and accessories.

As you walk around the showroom, you would see an endless variety of designs in all types of furniture from chairs to sofa sofabeds, sofas with center tables, and dining tables and chairs, to simple pieces like magazine racks, placemats, and other design accessories. A distinct factor you will notice in its furniture is how it incorporates Filipino indigenous products in its designs such as cushion inserts made of the Buntal weaving, accented motifs in the Bohol collection, abaca in the Congo collection, and many more.

Interior designers, architects, homeowners and all customers will surely take pleasure in visiting its showrooms in the 4th level, Building A, 900 Megaworld (637-1988) and in 49 Ramon Freed, West Rembo, Quezon City (928-3836/928-8826). Log on to www.homelifestyle.ph.com.

## Julie's NutriBreads at the Coconut Festival

by Archie Flores

JULIE'S FRANCHISE CORP. (JFC) PARTICIpated in the newly concluded 7th National Coconut Festival held at Magsaysay Hall 2, 5th Floor of Building B, SM Megamall, Mandaluyong City. The theme of the activity was "Kaunganan at Kasaganan sa Pilinggan sining Mayqian Oneliheness and Prosperity through Coconut Productivity". The affair was an initiative of the Department of Agriculture, coordinately the Philippine Coconut Authority (PCA) as the principal agency of the Philippine government responsible for the promotion of agricultural development and growth.

JFC was represented by product management managers Donald A. Pendoro. In his presentation, Pendoro narrated the company's initiation in launching different "Coconut Flour based Products". He added that all products launched by JFC during the declared Coconut Month (August) contain 10 percent of Coco Flour. He explained that Coconut flour refers to the processed food-grade products obtained after drying, expelling and/or extracting most of the oil from cured coconut meat. The flour contains 13-41 percent protein, 60-40 percent carbohydrates, 3 to 4 percent minerals and 9 to 15 percent fiber which are beneficial to the health of human beings. As fiber rich, this flour prevents chronic diseases like diabetic, cardiac, cancer and even cardiovascular diseases.

Among the products displayed by JFC during the event were some of its newest such as Sweet Coco Pandesal, Pan Americano, Coco Oatmeal Muffin, Choco Milk Muffin, Coco Pandesito, Sesame Loaf and Ube Loaf. All products displayed by Julie's gathered favorable response from those who tasted the products.

The current campaign of JFC to line with the celebration of the Coconut Month received around the production of healthy and nutritious breads dubbed as "Ang Julie's Nutribreads, Higitan at Tuloy-tuloy Talaga!" This campaign focuses on the idea that eating Julie's Nutribreads can make the consumer healthy, strong and active all day.

JFC's participation in the Coconut Festival spoke not only its support to the government's program, but more so of the company's commitment to promote healthy products since like those made from Coco Flour. This is to ensure their consumers of Julie's products are assured of healthy and nutritious food brand treats.

UNDER are (from left) engineer Elsie Hermosura, supervisor, science research department and PCA board of directors chair Arsenia Grano R. Manuel (PCA), science research specialist II Eric Constantino (PCA), manager, farmer income development department, vice-chair of Coconut Week Committee 2008, second, Donald A. Pendoro, manager, product management group, Julie's Franchise Corp and Maria Gladys, event

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## 'Ang Balingkinitan Na Bibingka'

CRAVING FOR A BIBINGKA BUT CANNOT FINISH THE WHOLE SERVING? THAT'S WHERE Bibingkahan, the first Bibingkahan on wheels, Bibingkahan can roast and bake Bibingkas that are evenly baked daily, perfect for single-use toasting! The name Bibingkahan comes from the old Tagalog word Bahagi which means slice and small. It is a fusion of the two words Bibingka plus Bahagihan, giving rise to Bibingkahan. "But the many Filipinos know the old Tagalog word bahagi when these days, especially the younger generation. But to those who know, they are quickly amused and at the same time curious about the name and end up trying our Bibingka says Richard Sanz, the 28-year-old young and aggressive president and CEO of Foodplus Corp., owner and operator of Bibingkahan and Mr. Square (a home-grown specialty food fine chain).

# Pinoy engineer develops low-cost water filter system

'Gilby brought the technology and know-how back to the Philippines, and with the help of his father designed a complete and portable water refilling station called the Electromex UHP 500'

THE 'ELECMATOR' Gilby Talong

THE PHILIPPINE archipelago is surrounded by water. So, it was but natural for this family to gravitate to a business that had to do a lot with it.

The fishing family led by its maverick and enterprising Gilby, however, were the "long route" in the water business. The family-owned business, instead, originally started out by Gilby's father as a 2-way radio and telecommunications provider in 1964.

"But the GSM killed the radio star, so to speak," quipped Gilby.

"The rise of the cell phone in the 1990s made radios obsolete," he explained.

The elder Talong, an electronics and communications engineer (ECE) by heart, tried his luck in water refilling. Gilby ventures that eventually, the high cost of franchise fees and royalties left very little room for a reasonable profit.

During an overseas trip, Gilby learned that the traditional water filtration system of reverse osmosis (RO) still used by many water refilling businesses here was already outmoded, and "environ-tone" was the "feeling."

"RO is a wasteful process, throwing away seven out of 10 gallons of water. Ultrafiltration, however, is safe and efficient and kills bacteria, fungus, algae, and viruses 300 times better than chlorine," Gilby explained.

Gilby brought the technology and know-how back to the Philippines, and with the help of his father designed a complete and portable water refilling station called the Electromex UHP 500.

"The interchangeable systems is already complete with stainless tanks, filters, stainless pumps, multi-stage ultra filters, reverse osmosis and an ultraviolet germicidal lamp system," Gilby enumerates.

"The water that comes out of the 4 to 1 by 6-foot UHP 500 is similar in quality to such brands as Wilkis, Summit or Viva," he said. He added that the system is also capable of producing commercial quantities of ozonated, non-acidic, alkaline-base water at up to 12,000 gallons a day.

"We have computed the production cost at just 33 centavos per gallon. The set-up and operating costs make this an ideal system for job sites, schools, factories, hospitals, and even barangay centers."

And at just P150,000 per unit with no prohibitive franchise fees involved, any entrepreneur, Pinoy—attached a salaried employee, an OFW, or retiree—can now venture into the water refilling business with a quick return on investments, Gilby stressed.

With the technology at hand, Gilby's Electromex had also developed water incinerators for waiting pools, overhead water tanks, ice plants and factory cooling towers "all at cost-effective," Gilby added.

To know more about the Talong's UHP 500 and how to start your own water business, log on to www.electromexinc.com or call (02) 6093, 474-2744, 372-2692, 372-9431 or 473-5144.

Arvin B. Espinosa

FROM 2-way radios to water stations, Electromex has branched niche with its UHP 500.

The WORLD

Editor Lorenzo B. Ducoy

# Putin says US created Georgia conflict

MOSCOW—RUSSIAN PRIME MINISTER Vladimir Putin accused Washington on Thursday of manufacturing the Georgia conflict as tensions mounted with the United States threatening to scrap a nuclear deal in protest at Moscow's actions.

Russia rented an inter-continental missile before Putin, the powerful former Kremlin leader who now heads the government, said the US administration had a hand in the five-day war between Russian and Georgian forces.

"The fact is that US citizens were indeed in the area in combat during the hostilities. It should be admitted that they would also only following direct orders from their leaders," Putin said in an interview with CNN.

He said he suspected that "scenarios in the US specially created this conflict" to "create an advantage" for a US presidential candidate.

He remarks drew a swift response from the White House which described them as "patently false."

Washington said it was considering scrapping a US-Russia civilian nuclear cooperation pact in response to Moscow's actions in Georgia and its recognition of South Ossetia and Abkhazia as separate states. Russia said the European Union could impose sanctions on Russia.

The missile test in northern Russia came barely a week after the United States completed an accord with Poland on basing an antimissile shield in central Europe and as Russia secures Syria of building up its navy vessels in the Black Sea.

A spokesperson for Russia's strategic nuclear forces said the 8,800-km test of the Topol RS-12M was successful. Russia has been developing the missile in response to US plans to develop its shield.

The announcement came as Russia complained about the murder of Iran ships in the Black Sea and said it was taking "necessary precautions."

Russian television broadcast excerpts of the Putin interview on CNN.

PUTIN AP

"If my guess is right, there's cause for suspicion that someone in the US specially created this conflict to worsen the situation and create an advantage in the competitive struggle for one of the candidates for the post of president of the United States," he said.

The fight late in the May 4 vote in the United States pits Democrat Barack Obama against Republican John McCain, who has been hawkish in his public responses to the Georgia conflict.

A White House spokesperson said "those claims first and foremost are patently false, but it also sounds like his defense colleague who said they believed this to be true are giving him really bad advice."

Asked whether Washington planned to go through with a recent accord allowing US and Russian components to form joint nuclear arms in the nuclear sector, the spokesperson said: "I don't think there's anything to announce yet, but I know that that is under discussion."

The standoff with the West has deepened since President Dmitry Medvedev's announcement that Russia recognized South Ossetia and another rebel region, Abkhazia, as independent states.

Georgia's parliament called for the government to cut diplomatic ties with Moscow over Russia's "occupation of Georgian territory" in a resolution adopted unanimously in Tbilisi.

Later on Thursday, Georgia called for an international investigation into the events that led to its conflict with Russia and allegations of widespread human rights abuses.

Georgian President Mikheil Saakashvili said in an interview with the BBC he was "open" to negotiations with Russia. AFP

## WORLDBRIEFS

### Thai protesters, police scuffle at compound

BANGKOK—Defiant Thai protesters scuffled with riot police on Friday as tensions flared on day four of a siege of Bangkok's main government compound aimed at forcing the premier to resign. Prime Minister Samak Sundaravej has so far kept his promise not to use violence to end the massive demonstrations, which represent the biggest challenge to his authority since he took power seven months ago. Thousands of demonstrators have barricaded themselves in the government complex in the capital, accusing Samak of being a mere rubber stamp for ousted former premier Thaksin Shinawatra and vowing that he must step down. AFP

### US to hand back Anbar, once Iraqi flashpoint

BAGHDAD—US troops will on Sept. 1 hand over control of Iraq's Anbar province, once the heart of a bloody Sunni Arab insurgency, reflecting a dramatic drop in violence across the country, an Iraqi official said on Thursday. Anbar, whose insurgency once posed the greatest challenge to US forces and Iraq's Shiite-led government, became a relatively peaceful place after Sunni tribal leaders turned against al-Qaeda militants and formed neighborhood police units that became a model for security efforts across Iraq. Reuters

### Mexico Supreme Court backs abortion law

MEXICO CITY—Mexico's Supreme Court on Thursday upheld a law allowing abortion in the capital, handing a victory to leftist city lawmakers who soon after President Felipe Calderon's government and the Roman Catholic Church. In an 8-3 vote, judges said there were no grounds to overturn a law approved in 2007 by the Mexico City government. Pro-legalized abortions on demand during the first trimester and established free public clinics. The bells of the cathedral in the capital's historic main square pealed in mourning. Reuters

### David Duchovny in rehab for sex addiction

LOS ANGELES—David Duchovny has entered a rehabilitation facility for sex addiction, in a statement released on Thursday by his lawyer, Stanton Stein. The actor said he did so voluntarily, adding: "I ask for respect and privacy for my wife and children as we deal with this situation as a family." The actor's publicist, Flo Gross, confirmed the rehab report, which first appeared on People.com. She and Stein both declined to elaborate further. Duchovny, 48, plays a sex-obsessed character on the showtime series "Californication," which earned Emmy nominations for casting and cinematography. The actor appeared in the film "The X Files: I Want to Believe" earlier this summer. He has been married to actress Tea Leoni since 1997. They have two children. AP

# Faiths clash, displacing thousands in East India

NEW DELHI—42 LEAST 3,000 people, most of them Christians, are living in government-run relief camps after days of Christian versus Hindu violence in eastern India, government officials said.

The government said many people were also living in the jungle without any shelter or security because of the tensions, which erupted in violence after a Hindu leader was killed on Saturday. At least 40 people, most of them Christians, have been killed since.

Christian community leaders say at least 1,000 homes of Christians have been set on fire since Monday, rendering more than 5,000 people homeless.

Many of those living in the jungle were without food or water, said the Rev. Dibakar Botcha, a priest at the Roman Catholic church in Madhaya, a town in Orissa State. Botcha said about 90 places of worship, including small churches and prayer halls, had been burned down. Local officials said the figure was above 20.

The violence has occurred in Kandhamal, a district in Orissa State that has a history of communal and ethnic clashes. AFP

SPORTS
Editor Teddrick S. Melendres Assistant Editor Francis T. J. Ochoa

HEAVY! Pacquiao will fight in a lower territory as far as weights is concerned when he faces Oscar De La Hoya.

WHAT'S INSIDE
Coin tosses Ivanovic out /A23

# Pacman-Golden Boy tiff still faces weighty issues

By Marc Anthony Reyes

THERE'S STILL ANOTHER WEIGHTY issue to deal with as far as the planned Manny Pacquiao-Oscar De La Hoya megabout is concerned.

Pacquiao's camp is asking for a penalty of no less than $5 million per excess pound if the Golden Boy doesn't meet the catch weight of 147 lbs.

"We still don't have any deal yet with regard to that but we are asking $5 million," Pacquiao's chief counsel Freddie Gaisil told the Inquirer.

De La Hoya has set limits in the welterweight division for the past seven years and will be coming down two weight classes to meet the current WBC lightweight titlist.

Pacquiao will leapfrog two divisions to meet him though he has not gone past the lightweight ranks (135 lbs) since scaring his past contest at light flyweight (108 lbs).

Both camps have often put to rigors on the date of the weigh-in, something that could tilt the favor either way.

Pacquiao is pushing for the same-day weigh-in but Gaisil admitted that it won't be acceptable to De La Hoya's camp.

"We want it to happen the day before fight," said Gaisil.

However, considering the toll it might take on the 35-year-old De La Hoya shedding pounds that much, his camp might opt for three days before the fight.

"That won't be acceptable for us," said Gaisil. "We would practically surrender the fight if we agree on that."

The same size difference has brought the most bite though he has not gone past the lightweight ranks (135 lbs) since scaring his past contest at light flyweight (108 lbs).

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"That won't be acceptable for us," said Gaisil. "We would practically surrender the fight if we agree on that."

The same size difference has brought the Dec. 6 fight at the MGM Grand in Las Vegas to a different dimension.

"It is important for boxing that at least once a year there is a matchup which truly transcends the sport, which captures the imagination of sports fans everywhere, and which has everyone buzzing," HBO PPV chief Mark Taffet said in an interview posted on the Internet.

"De La Hoya-Pacquiao is that matchup for 2008. It is a true megafight which people will be talking about for years to come," he said.

Pacquiao's representative, Top Rank president Bob Arum said during a teleconference held in Las Vegas: "This distilled class this fight is taking place. I've been involved in many great fights but this one has worldwide implications. An American Olympian, and the greatest athlete ever to come out of the Philippines."

# Norwood gets green light despite lack of papers

By Jane Navarro

GABE NORWOOD FAILED TO SUBmit a key requirement in his bid to play in the PBA, but a letter from the Department of Justice (DOJ) helped him prevail his dreams.

The PBA Commissioner's Office gave the 6-foot-3 Norwood the go-signal to attend the Annual Draft interview despite failing to present the original copy of his Department of Justice recognition.

Commissioner Sonny Barrios yesterday ruled that Norwood was eligible to join the rookie exercise at the Shaherd Market Activity Center in Taguig City because of a letter that helped the former UE MCAA standout clear the technical roles last year.

Barrios explained that the letter of Justice Sec. Raul Gonzales to the Department of Foreign Affairs on July 21, 2007 declaring Norwood a Filipino citizen was enough to comply with league requirements for players born and raised abroad.

The pro league requires Filipino applicants with foreign ancestry to submit a clearance from the Bureau of Immigration aside from the DOJ recognition before declaring them eligible for the draft.

Under Section 1 (2), Article III of the 1973 Constitution, a child is considered a Filipino if his father or mother is a Filipino citizen at the time of the child's birth.

"Having been born on February 9, 1983 of a Filipino mother makes Gabriel Daniel Norwood a Filipino citizen," wrote Gonzales.

"As such, he should have the right to be issued a Philippine passport in accordance with the constitution," added Gonzales in his letter to DFA Secretary Alberto Romulo, who sought the opinion of Gonzales on Norwood.

After the DFA issued a passport to Norwood, the flashy guard from George Mason University represented the country in the 2007 Fiba-Asia Championships in Tokushima, Japan.

"Since the DOJ contends that Norwood no longer needs the documents we required him to submit, it's illogical on our part to insist on it," said Barrios.

While Norwood got the green light without the original DOJ document, the six other foreigners with Filipino roots were required to submit the additional DOJ and IE supporting documents.

Based Monday's another first-round prospect, has also been cleared to join the Draft after beating yesterday's deadline on the submission of the required documents.

Norwood, who saw action for Super Smashpanic in the Philippine Basketball League following his Tokushima stint, is said to be the top choice of Rain or Shine (formerly Welcoat), the ballclub which owns the No. 1 overall pick.

# Cardinals upset Knights

## Stags notch 8th straight triumph

LA SALLE-GREENHILLS (Lucas-Katrabazan)
11-20—104-1369 vs. Pasumio (Ong)
2 pts — O. Bautista vs. Personal (Jao)
sg. n.—400 vs. PGS (Dy)

By Cedelf P. Topaz

WITH SEEMINGLY CONFIDENCE and a little old school trickery, the Mapua Cardinals blasted the La Salle-Greenhills Junior Archers, knocking out a 69-52 rout yesterday to the NCAA men's basketball tournament at the Cuneta Astrodome.

Ian Mata put up a game-high 20 markers, both second-four triples and former NCAA juniors' MVP Allan Mangahas continued his fiery form, pouring 12 of his 18 points in the third quarter, when the Cardinals outscored the Knights, 23-13, to rip the game wide open and step in the hunt for a Final Four berth.

The Cardinals forged the two-digits scoring just two points in the fourth—on free throws in the last 37 seconds at that—by going cold-faced on a day when they were throwback sixties.

"I know we already won the game by the end of the third quarter so it today if we scored just two points in the fourth," said Mapua coach Leo Isaac, whose bench took a 67-38 edge into the final period. "We were back to old school basketball which were running time and shooting with little time left in the shot clock."

In the last game of the day, Ian Sebastian trounced St. Scholle, 57-51, for its eighth straight win that ensured the Stags a playoff berth for a place in the Final Four.

The Stags, led by Ivanhoe Angullo's 13 points, improved to 8-4 and grabbed sole second for the first time this season, dislodging the Knights, who were denied six outright semifinal berth by Mapua and fell to a tie at third with Jose Rizal University at 6-4.

In the juniors' tournament, San Sebastian moved within two wins of an outright championship berth as the Stags plus doubled CSB-La Salle-Greenhills, 10-03, for their 18th straight victory. Kevin Alas posted 25 markers to power the Cartoon Equirers to the Final Four with a 127-36 crushing of Mapua Red Robbins.

**The scores:**

**First Game**

**MAPUA (69)**—Mata 20, Mangahas 18, Sarol 11, Pascual II, C. Dela Pena 5, Carreon 3, Pascual I, S. Serrano 0.

**LETRAN (52)**—Mangahas 16, Cabrera 9, Gamboa 9, Ocampo 8, Gerodi 2, V. Dy 2, Lucas 1, and 2.

Quarter: 13-Cardinal; 2-Defenders 8.

**Standings:** (5-3, 10-5) (5-3) (6-3) (6-4)

**Second Game**

**LSG (61)**—Angullo 13, Arriaga 8, Gamos 8, Espinosa 7, Alabastro 6, Austria 6, Ong 4, Villarosa 4, Lukban 3, Castillo 2, Ramirez 1, Bautista 1, Dalupan 0.

**ST. SCHOLE (51)**—Lucas 16, Antonio 8, Andrada 7, Mendoza 6, Dalusio 5, Sanchez 5, Mendoza 2, Abando 1, Dela Cruz 0, Mendoza 0.

**Standings:** (5-3, 10-5) (5-3) (6-3) (6-4)

HAPPIER? Jonathan Bantal tries to bully his way past the defense of Letran's Kirk Del Rosario.

## Eagles eye semifinal incentive

ASSURED TO PUT A LOCK ON THE TOP spot, the Ateneo Blue Eagles still find reason to be too confident.

"We understand we're one of the better teams in the league, there's no question about that, but we have to come and play every night," said Ateneo coach Norman Black. "If we don't, we know any team can beat us. As long as we continue to have the current attitude, and approach the game as if we really have to win every game, then we'll be okay. I don't think we have time to be overconfident."

Toting an 11-1 card, the Eagles will shoot for a twice-to-beat incentive against the eliminated National U Bulldogs in the UAAP men's basketball competition at 4 p.m. today at the Philsports Arena.

The Eagles, the defending champion La Salle Archers and the Far Eastern Tamaraws—who will trade in the University of the Philippines Maroons (8-4) tomorrow at 2 p.m.—already secured Final Four berths.

"My team's worry about our offensive systems since our defense is what got us off to a good start," said Black of the Eagles, who are powered by MVP contenders Nathan Ah Hoon and Chris Tiu.

After falling short in the last two seasons, the Tamaraws finally clinched a semifinal berth last Thursday by stopping the Bulldogs in a 64-61 victory that marked the return of Mac Steward.

"As a coach, I'm happy that [I] no longer have a child-at-time with my rotation," Black said be a big help in the Final Four," said coach Glenn Capacio of the 6-foot-3 forward, who surprisingly played just five weeks after an anterior cruciate ligament injury.

A victory today will boost the twice-to-beat tail of the Tamaraws, who remained tied with the Archers in second place at 9-3.

Standings/SC Page

| STANDINGS | W | L |
|---|---|---|
| Ateneo | 11 | 1 |
| FEU | 9 | 3 |
| La Salle | 9 | 3 |
| UP | 8 | 4 |
| UST | 7 | 5 |
| JRU | 7 | 6 |
| DLSU | 6 | 6 |
| Adamson | 3 | 10 |

**GAMES TODAY**
**(Philsports Arena)**
2 p.m.—UP vs. FEU
4 p.m.—Ateneo vs. NU

## RP Youth logs double OT victory

NIETES

THE BOXING RP YOUTH SQUAD LEGNED an steady five-throw shooting to nip Chinese Taipei, 108-105, in double overtime at the start of the 9th Asia championship for poster men at the Asiad Stadium in Tehran yesterday.

Gabriel Rosal coolly sank his charities to help the SP dribblers overland a 103-104 defeat in the closing minutes before playmaker Ryan Snow Garcia pegged the final count by converting a free throw of his own with 10 seconds remaining.

"It was a tremendous team effort," SP coach Perin Palmares said in an e-mailed report sent by the team's media representative. "I must commend the boys for giving it all they got."

"I also have to give credit to my coaching staff who diligently researched and scouted Chinese Taipei for any advantages we can have, any weaknesses we can capitalize on," Palmares added.

Big men Darlene Torres and Ian Sangalang fouled out in the first extension period allowing Chinese Taipei to sneak home to the shaded lane through Chou Po-chen's inside forays, which forced another extra time at 98-all.

The SP Youth squad was practically depleted as both the shaded lanes of Frank Gelle Jr. and Filipino-Canadian Matthew Wright also fell into foul trouble, leaving SP coach Franz Pumaren to take his chance with a smaller lineup.

Swales came the Filipinos way when the high-scoring Chou fouled out on Garcia's drive with less than three minutes left.

Rosal then used moves into his hands and inched the hustler aggressively that led to a handful of pressure-packed free throws that the 6-foot-1 converted. Jane Hanawra

## Nietes defends WBO world crown today

CEBU CITY—WORLD BOXING ORGANIzation (WBO) minimumweight champion Donnie Nietes defends his title for the first time today against Nicaraguan Eddy Cuevas in the co-main event of the "WBO Rights of Champions" card at the WaterFront Cebu City Hotel.

The other main event will feature the huge hyperpulse Bey "Boom Boom" Bautista defending his WBO International superbantam title against Mexican Ednir Marquez in the other 12-round bill.

"That will be an exciting card for the fans. We know the visiting fighters have prepared hard for this. But our Filipino fighters are ready for the battle," said the youthful Michael Aldagoni whose Ala Promotions is putting up the show.

Nietes (23-1-1, 18 KOs) came in as an emerging 122-lb. fighter who has since established himself as a solid pound-for-pound contender.

Bautista and Marquez then held a dressing showdown that had the big crowd cheering for a fight.

The Bacolod City native Nietes (22-1-1, 13 KOs), defending his world crown after winning it over Thailand's Pornsawan Porpramook in last year, came in as a perfect 108 lbs. while Cuevas (12-3-1, 9 KOs) was at 103 lbs. Sabino Laguardia, Contributor

## From Olympic fatigue to Pacquiao mania

BARE EYE

Ricardo Dimalanta

NO CONTEST AND NOMEES TO DIG into juicy fight records, either.

Manny Pacquiao yesterday scored his biggest, quickest off-day knockout when he formally agreed to fight the fight of the decade against a bigger, richer, plunder Oscar De La Hoya.

So what if it has the makings of a **mismatch**, in favor of the Golden Boy, right at the start?

Yes, the only edge Pacquiao could visibly bring inside the ring at 9PDW Grand is his age.

At 29, the smaller, shorter but reputedly quicker Pacquiao will not be carrying in his legs the burden of the years, not and cobwebs that have been predicted to hobble those the 34-year-old De La Hoya some light time on Dec. 6.

* * *

Experts will predictably be divided on how the fight would shape up and finish.

The biggest letdown, of course, is the risk of the bout not being scored based on ringside athleticism.

There's the great danger of the fight being **decided mainly on physical** disparity.

It would be that one man is too small or the enemy is too old and tamed.

Could it be that Pacquiao would prevail mainly because De La Hoya is already drawn, softer than the famed Golden Boy the world has **known** to adore?

Or it could also turn out that De La Hoya, despite the visible slide in his abilities in recent fights, has one precious, golden final blast that would reverse **and** silver Pacquiao's presumed advantages.

* * *

There will be endless debates.

But there's no assurance the fight will go to the younger but quicker vs. Old forbid, to the older but bigger, wiser foe.

It will be win and the winner will be the smarter and, definitely, the braver one who would risk everything to prevail.

There will be a shakeout two schools, between combatants of contrasting build, prowess and blunders.

Based on available ability and achievement, the sensational Pacquiao would draw enough wagers to his camp.

But it goes without saying that De La Hoya could still swing it talking on the intangibles.

In fact, the strongest weapons De La Hoya could bring into the fight may not exactly be that worn-out, bruised artillery Pacquiao and his fanmen have globally observed and dismissed.

* * *

Anyway, going by the latest two knockout Pacquiao has scored, the feat also helped one disgraced sentenced sports leaders.

**While we were making for a big** get event, not necessarily another tragedy, to overhap the dismal, disconcerting downing of the Philippine contingent in the Beijing Games, Pacquiao handily provided a feeder atmosphere that definitely soothed frustrated Filipino sports fans both here and abroad.

Pacquiao has economically provided reinforcement on a number that had praised and hooped for at least a scandal from the Olympics but which was instead repaid with dismal setbacks in the Beijing battles.

* * *

Manny Pacquiao, just like Israel Oborra, did make history by simply signing up for the fight against Oscar De La Hoya.

In the process, Pacquiao swept under the rug the anomaly of the failed Philippine mission to the Beijing Olympics.

Of course, the biggest beneficiaries are again the incorrigible national sports leaders who have refused to learn from their mistakes.

There came sports officials, no better than village quacks, offered a new set of cures and promises but, with every hint of change we can believe in, have also assured themselves of another all-expenses paid excursion to the next Olympics in Britain.

Long live Manny Pacquiao, PP pride and saviour of drained sports kudos.

FIGHTING MAROON Soccer President Manny Pillar gets a University of the Philippines (UP) ceremonial jacket from the players and coaching staff of the Fighting Maroons in appreciation for his support to the team's campaign in the UAAP V-Men's pitching his share in UP's bid to bounce in program and win the title in last year in 1986.

## Smart Sports, SMC back PBAPC awards

THE CROWNING OF THE COACH of the Year will highlight the 2008 PBA Press Corps Annual awards hosted by Smart Sports and San Miguel Corp.

Dugging is one for the prestigious Virgilio "Baby" Dalupan Trophy are Sen. Lucky's Boyet Fernandez, Governor's Jong Uichico, Air21's Tim Pena and Red Bull's Yeng Guiao.

Sen. Lucky's Buddy Encarnado, Air21's Lim Atienza, Red Bull's Tony Chua and PBA commissioner Sonny Barrios are also in contention for the Executive of the Year in the awards rites set at 7:30 p.m. Tuesday at the Bayview Park Hotel on Roxas Blvd. in Manila.

The PBAPC, a group of sportswriters regularly covering the PBA games, feeds other achievers including the Defensive Player of the Year, 6th Quality Minutes, Comeback Player of the Year, the All-Rookie Team and the Referee of the Year.

Other major awardees are Purefoods' Jeanie Tep and Coca-Cola's Jet Tanfara, the players who got the most number of times Asset Player of the Week citations in the season.

San Miguel Corp., a long-time sports patron, has long been a major supporter of the corps in various projects and programs including ties with the PBAPC, barely two months after its formation.

Elegant trophies crafted by Jaenens and Sons will be awarded.

# Sullivan: 'Lucky' Phelps must bring A-game vs 'us sprint boys'

SYDNEY, AUSTRALIA—MICHAEL PHELPS WHO finally helped American Michael Phelps earn eight gold medals at the Beijing Olympics, would record-breaking Australian swimmer Grant Sullivan said Friday.

Sullivan, who broke the world 100 meter freestyle record in the semifinals at Beijing but finished second in the final, said Phelps was able to break Spitz's record of seven golds at one Olympics through good fortune and some small events by events.

"There was an element of luck," Sullivan said.

Phelps came from behind to beat Serbia's Milorad Cavic by 0.01 seconds in the 100-meter butterfly final and needed an outstanding swim by anchorman Jason Lezak to win gold in the 4x100 meter freestyle relay.

"One hundred five always come down to finishes and none would say Cavic's finish was—it was at that point 50-50 whether you take another stroke or you take a glide," Sullivan said.

"You see Phelps took another stroke, he (Cavic) took a glide and obviously (Phelps') arms are coming over in a hurry past.

"He (Phelps) made the right decision and the other guy made the wrong decision.

PHELPS

SULLIVAN

"Boy if Ian (Phelps') had made the other decision he might not have been as lucky but he might have come away with a second and he would have come away with equaling (Spitz's record).

"I'm not saying he didn't deserve it, I'm saying he did everything he could do to win those golds and he came away with it, but at the same time there were little mistakes by other people that allowed him to do that."

Sullivan expects to clash with Phelps in the 100m and 200m freestyle at next year's world championships and vowed the Australian will rubber competition ahead.

"I guess what else is left to do for him except come down and win races he hasn't won before?" Sullivan said.

"When you are the greatest swimmer ever I guess you can afford to do that.

"He's accomplished as much already he wants to accomplish more.

"He better bring his A-game because us sprint boys are a different league and we are not going to go easy on him." AP

# Wushu star gets P5.5 M from GMA

By Mari Anthony Reyes

HOW MUCH IS WILLY MANUEL WUSHU gold medal worth? In as the Chief Executive is concerned, it's worth P5.5 million.

The youngest champion during the first Asiaphysical special event along with three other medalists yesterday received cash bonuses from President Macapagal-Arroyo during a courtesy call in Malacañang.

WANG

President Arroyo handed a check from the Philippine Amusement and Gaming Corp. worth P1 million to Wang. The reward was on top of the P500,000 cash reward the Chief Executive's husband, Mike Arroyo.

It was the biggest windfall ever given to an amateur athlete, which practically rewarded the boxer-student for his 90kilo win, which gives P5 million to whoever wins the Olympic gold medal.

"We are competing for the honor of the country, we were not expecting this," said the 24-year-old Wang. "I will put the money in (my) bank."

The government and private sector had earlier pledged a total of P10 million to the winner of the country's first Olympic gold in Beijing. Unfortunately, the 15 more contingents who competed in the together events all went home empty-handed.

The President also handed P5 million to silver winner Mary Jane Estimar and P500,000 each to bronze medalists Roque Rivera and Marian Montano.

# Coin tosses Ivanovic out

## Nadal sweeps off qualifier

NEW YORK— TOP-RANKED ANA IVANOVIC SUFFERED ONE OF THE BIGGEST UPsets in tennis history when she was stunned by 108th-ranked Aiko Coin of France, 6-3, 4-6, 6-3, in the second round of the US Open on Thursday.

Never before in the Open era (that began in 1968) had the No. 1 seeded lost this early in the tournament.

Coin screamed when Ivanovic's last shot sailed out, then hopped for joy and hit an extra ball high into Arthur Ashe Stadium. Ivanovic quietly gathered her gear and left the court, her hopes of another Grand Slam championship dashed.

"Obviously, if you would ask me at the moment if I'm playing like a No. 1, probably not," Ivanovic said.

"It's very frustrating because I know I can play so much better."

Even after Ivanovic struggled in the first round while coming back from an injured thumb, there was no way to see this coming.

Coin spent much of the year playing in minor events and mostly got bounced out of Open qualifying.

The 23-year-old Frenchwoman recently played so poorly she thought about giving up the sport and refusing on her rumbosaurus degree.

"I was thinking, Am I really made to play tennis?" she said.

Asked whether she'd thought such a win was possible, she gave a direct, honest answer.

"No," she said.

**And when did she believe it might happen?**

"I guess when it was over," she told the crowd, drawing a huge reaction.

If there was any suspicion that Coin was unnerving, she modified herself by rubbing in the shirt on. It was Ivanovic who looked jittery, hitting shots directly into the net or way out.

Top-seeded Rafael Nadal avoided a similar fate on the men's side, beating unseeded qualifier Björn De Heus, 6-1, 6-2, 6-4.

Nadal joined Venus and Serena Williams, Amon Blake, David Ferrer, Andy Murray and Juan Martin Del Potro in the third round.

Ivanovic failed to score off Coin in the first game, but it was no less for the 20-year-old. Ivanovic was Coin even on her third match point—quite a result for someone playing in her first main-level event. AP

RAFAEL Nadal cruises to the next round.

COIN: Am I really made to play tennis?

Dinara Safina is entering into the third round. No. 14 Iva Kuznetsova posted the size of the day while beating Florent Serra of France in straight sets—her finished ahead in over 42-0.

The Ivanovic-Coin match was originally scheduled for the smaller Louis Armstrong Stadium, but was moved to the main Ashe stage to give the crowd a treat. The fans fortunately knew what really was in store.

Tentative at times, Ivanovic seemed to regain her edge suddenly through third set. She led 40-0 in the fifth game and was about to break Coin's serve when suddenly the unseasoned one fought back.

Coin came back to hold, starting her decisive streak.

Ivanovic tried to stave off Coin in the final game, but it was too late for the 20-year-old. Serbian was Coin even on her third match point—quite a result for someone playing in her first main-level event. AP

# Singapore tops Putra Cup; RP ends up 3rd

ABETTO: Best RP performer

By Mycaeg R. Cantillo

SINGAPORE—SINGAPORE DID IT'S runup up job while Thailand knocked the Philippines out at second place Friday in the 68th Putra Cup here.

Singapore secured the crown from defending champion Thailand, which managed to salvage second place at Tampines Khongpra fired a five-under-par 66 that keyed a roundblocking 202 for the day to win runner-up honors by five shots over the game Filipinos at the Bukit course of the Singapore Island Country Club here.

Khongpra, a member of the gold medal-winning Southeast Asian Games team in Thailand last year, also won the individual title over Singaporean star Choo Tze Huang via a countback, his battle on No. 18 giving him the better score for the day, both had 276 tallies.

Pipatporng Noarmruk, the reigning SEA Games individual champion, shot a 66 despite a silly three-putt from four feet that resulted in bogey on the closing hole, and Veera Intakhab contributed a 70.

So good were the Thais that they threw away tightwhat Football's 71.

That effort easily wiped out a seven-stroke overnight lead that the Philippines enjoyed as Noarmruk knocked down to work early by making the turn at 33 and Khongpha finishing in with a 32.

Choo, the lanky 21-year-old seeing stamp as the future of Singapore golf, fired a 65 and Jonathan Leong added a 68 with either of Jerome Ng, and Dmitriy Qodri's 70 counting for their 205 and 603 overall.

It was still a 19-point victory for the Singaporeans, whose triumph here is bound to have riders are to come against a full field. Two years ago, the Philippines and Thailand did not play in the event that Singapore won handily in Papua New Guinea.

Tanlee Antonio showed hailed a chip from around the 18th green and had to settle for a birdie and a 70 to lead the Philippines, which got identical 72s from Hollie Bayron and National Caddies' Open program members Jozel Abalos for 23 6 and 847 total.

Hollyland Arceno, who won two titles in Malaysia before adding his first RP Amateur championship prior coming over, failed to score for the second straight day with a 74.

It was a sorry finale for the 10 spleen, who were in second place as the end of each of the first three rounds.

Abalos, the 39-year-old former junior ace, was actually the brightest Filipino performer individually, finishing in a tie for sixth with Noarmruk with a 281 total, two under over the matcard. Jerome Bated remained.

Abalos, who has been hobbled by the flu the last two days, said Bayron, who opened up hostilities for the Philippines with a brilliant 66 on Tuesday, tied for 11th spot at 287.

The Filipino golfers' effor here was backed by the Philippine Sports Commission, Smdcool and Dynamic Sports president Chris Dino.

Bayron hopes it is double-by-saving the Lion's Cup by three shots, ahead Thailand.

## SPORTSWATCH

### Looney Tunes 'cheering' set

ROGER TUAÑEZ ON TO THE CHEERLEADING competition at the Music Hall of SM Mall of Asia today in the event capping the Looney Tunes World Games.

St. Paul's Pasig, San Beda, Holy Spirit and Manila Adventist Medical School will shoot for the top P50,000 purse in the three-hour tournament sponsored by Nestle Nutrisida and Goldilocks.

The event proper starts at 1 p.m.

Meanwhile and tomorrow at SM Megamall are co-skating and bowling with free sessions for kids 5 to 12 years old plus a free hour of fun there with characters of the AP ice skating squad and other game of bowling from 3 to 8 p.m.

### San Juan-Mighty triumphs

ESPECIE FERRER CAME THROUGH WITH two huge triples in the last three minutes as San Juan-Mighty Sports defeated Pasay City, 64-57, in the Inter-City basketball tournament at the Cuneta Astrodome.

Backed by San Juan City Mayor JV Ejercito, Mighty Sports rallied from several 13-point deficits to outlast by first back-to-back wins in the tournament's sixth season under with Manila-Zilo League.

The win was the first for four starts for San Juan-Mighty Sports.

Erick Arcilla, team manager of the three-champion Harbour Centre in the PBL, scored two triples that prevented the host team from pulling away in the first half.

### 'Rambulan' round 4 up

DARYL JAMES CELEBRADO'S "RAMBULAN Open 6 relay derby" which ends PT's Harbour on the line starts its fourth of a six-round today with some 30 matches lined up.

A total of 108 entries were registered so far in the first three rounds and 12 participants lead the pack with identical 3-0 (win-loss) slates.

All qualifiers will battle for the title on Sept. 6. For details, call 7250308 and 7250302.

## BSCP chair brands BMPAP charges 'baseless'

CHARGES OF MALVERSATION OF public funds filed against the Billiards and Snooker Congress of the Philippines (BSCP) are merely recycled allegations, BSCP chair Florencio "Yeo" Maluleong said yesterday.

The BSCP head "resolved or summoned any funds from the Philippine Sports Commission," Maluleong said in a released statement a day after the Billiards Managers and Players Association of the Philippines (BMPAP) filed a petition before the Ombudsman to investigate the alleged anomaly.

"PSC (chair) William Ramirez has publicly stated that the alleged fund of P10 million that was endowed is non-existent."

Maluleong also cleared Raya Sports, the private firm responsible for marketing the World Pool Championship.

"(The petition) is merely a response for the Ombudsman to condone a failing expedition into allegations long ago cleared by BMPAP against the BSCP and its officials, and long ago answered by us in the media and public forums," he noted.

Maluleong, who also serves as Raya Sports president, said BMPAP's move is an attempt "to damage" the 9th World Ten Ball Championship set on Sept. 29 to Oct. 5 at the PICC.

"The allegation of conflict of interest with respect to my serving as chairman of BSCP and being an officer of Raya Sports is baseless," he said.

"Nothing in the by-laws of the BSCP prohibits multi-hats engaged in a billiards business or promotions from becoming a member or officer of the association. (On) the contrary, it encourages such individuals to join the BSCP and engage in activities to promote our sport."

MPC runner-up Roberto Gomez, former national team captain Alex Pagulayan and billiards player Carlo Biado personally submitted the petition to Assistant Ombudsman Mark Jalandoni last Thursday.

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- **Remittances boost broad** money supply in June /B6

BUSINESS
Editor Raul G. Pangalangan ● Assistant Editor Cornie S. Mariano

# Neda chief pushes use of all approved ODA

## WB, RP draw up rules to speed up project implementation

By Doris C. Dumlao and Michelle V. Remo

ECONOMIC PLANNING SECRETARY Ralph Recto wants full disbursement of official development assistance approved and programmed for this year as the government needed to reverse the massive spending that dragged down growth in the first half.

Disbursement of programmed ODA by reached 78% percent last year and 80 percent in 2006.

Recto said government agencies should speed up spending in the remainder of the year to help the economy grow by at least 5.5 percent this year.

Finance Secretary Recto admitted that the full-year growth target has become a tough challenge following a slower-than-expected performance of the economy in the first half, when GDP grew by only 4.6 percent. In the same period last year, the economy grew 7.3 percent.

The slowdown in GDP growth was blamed largely on high inflation, which forced consumers to tighten spending on non-essentials, and past

>>> B2

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Expect more free time. Here's how.

Time for yourself and for your family has never been more precious. While nothing can be perfectly planned to the last minute, it's still possible to set aside time for both.

Read on for tips on how to prioritize, maintain a work-life balance and discover priceless free time hiding in the corners of every day.

SCHEDULE FOR SUCCESS.
Keeping a schedule is an effective tool to battle procrastination or the infamous mañana habit. A well-planned day prevents us from running out of time and keeps us ahead of the daily race for success.

PRIORITIZE YOUR DAY.
A to-do list scribbled in your notebook or on a sticky note can be good enough to remind you of what you have to accomplish for the day. Don't forget to indicate which activities are truly priorities then start with those.

PLAN FOR THE MONTH.
For the busybods, with meetings, appointments and reports scattered all throughout the month, keep a detailed planner. Use the calendar program on your mobile phone so you can refer to your schedule wherever you are. A good bonus: people you work with will appreciate how you value and respect their time by being prompt with submissions or meetings.

STRIKE A WORK-LIFE BALANCE.
Don't forget to include non-work related activities in your schedule. You can keep separate schedules for work, friends and family but make sure they don't overlap, otherwise you may have to choose between Mom's birthday party and an important client's dinner invitation.

IDENTIFY YOUR TIME WASTERS.
What eats up most of your time? Do you spend your lunch hour lining up in the bank or in the Bayad Center? Or maybe you are spreading yourself too thin.

multi-tasking to the extreme and saying yes to everyone's requests. Are these things essential to your daily, weekly or monthly goals or do they merely keep you from doing what's most important?

RE-THINK YOUR ROUTINE.
We've been so used to doing things in a particular, usually old-fashioned way even when there's a simpler and faster way to do them. It may take you some time to learn and get used to a new routine but you'll soon realize how these changes earn you extra time for yourself.

DISCOVER ALTERNATIVES.
Take advantage of new paths that help you reach your goals with less effort. Instead of lining up for a bank transaction, ask your bank if they offer online, phone or mobile banking. Instead of doing everything yourself, learn to delegate your tasks and learn to say no to requests especially when your schedule is already filled up with urgent concerns.

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BPI understands your need for more free time. So we have gone beyond extending our banking hours to extending our banking locations. Now you can bank anytime, anywhere, with BPI 24/7 Banking. No lines, no hassles. It's simple, secure – and saves you time better spent for yourself or with the ones you care about.

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BPI 24/7 BANKING

# Brokers buck extension of stock trading hours

By Elizabeth Sanchez-Lacsamana

SOME STOCKBROKERS ARE NOT fully buying the Philippine Stock Exchange's (PSE) plan to extend trading hours in the afternoon, saying the exchange should not force them to trade outside of the trading floor since this would limit operating costs.

Eagle Equities Inc. president Joseph Hosin said he was against the mandatory "off-floor" or Internet-based trading in the afternoon, arguing that the PSE was essentially passing on additional cost to stockbrokers.

"That's crazy. It should be optional. Does that mean that I have to pay for a new set of phones and computers for my office when I could use what I already have on the trading floor. The board should reconsider the implementation of this plan. There should be consultation among all brokers before they implement this. I am an advocate of afternoon trading but forcing everybody to go off floor is wrong," Hosin said.

Lucky Securities Inc. president Isidro Gabing said the PSE should consider implementing extended trading at the right time, since for this plan to work, trading volumes should average at least P4 billion a day.

"I think PSE management should do its job by assisting more companies to list (conduct public offers) so that there will be volume," Gabing said.

So far this year, only two companies—Pepsi Cola Products Philippines Inc. and San Miguel Brewery Inc.—conducted initial public offerings.

Last year was a banner year for the PSE since 10 companies conducted their IPOs—Universal Personals Classics Group Inc., e-Telecare Global Solutions Inc., Splash Corp., Ilocos Inc., Seafront Land Holdings Inc., EMI Network Inc., Alsons Power Corp., Phoenix Petroleum Phils. Inc., National Reinsurance Corporation of the Philippines and Pacific Online Systems Corp.

Mahendra Raju, president at RB Lim & Co. Inc. and concurrently a PSE director, said prospects for the market might become more upbeat next year in time for the start of afternoon trading.

"The opportunity for us to see that (projection) is there next year. We are united in the board in saying if not now, when. But we are considering all the comments made by brokers," Yu said.

Yu said brokers who were opposing the plan have cited additional costs such as terminals, laptops and telephone connections to conduct off-floor trades.

Foreign brokers, on the other hand, have cited the opportunity to access more stocks and European clients when the stock exchange opens trading between 2 and 4 p.m. Yu said, living with trading hours not only of markets in Asia, but also in Europe, like Euronext, Deutsche Boerse, OMX, Bolsa de Madrid, and the London Stock Exchange.

"With the new trading system, we are giving brokers a chance to maximize their returns," Yu said.

Online broker CitiseVonline.com said it was not worried about the current hesitations in the stock market.

"Moreover, trading will definitely increase the profile of the Philippine stock market abroad. We are not worried about the bear market because as we all know, this too will pass," said CitiseOnline president Consuelo Ibarra.

## Cite added cost of Internet-based operations

## Stocks close 1.2% higher

SHARE PRICES CLOSED 1.2 percent higher yesterday due to a drop in oil prices and favorable US economic growth data, dealers said.

The composite index rose 32.34 points to 2,688.09. The all-shares index rose 1.34 percent to 1,668.75 points.

There were 89 gainers compared to 20 losers and 31 unchanged counters. Turnover reached 1.77 billion shares worth P3.37 billion.

"The market is being driven more by external factors—the drop in oil prices and the US economic numbers that were released overnight," said Jess Veras of AB Capital Securities.

The US economy surpassed expectations, growing by 3.3 percent in the second quarter.

Philippine Long Distance Telephone Co. rose 1.68 percent to P2,720. Megaworld Corp. rose 2.8 percent to P1.46. Metro Pacific Corp. rose 2.46 percent to P41.88.

San Miguel Corp. saw its 'B' shares fall 1.12 percent to P44 while its "B" shares fell 1.17 percent to P46.

AFP

GLOBAL GATEWAY LOGISTICS CITY

PRESIDENT Macapagal-Arroyo, assisted by Peregrine Development International president Dennis Wright, prepares to lower the time capsule for a 161-hectare mixed-use development and Logistics Center of Excellence in Clark to be developed by Peregrine and financed by RCBC Investment Co. Looking on are (from left) RCBC vice president Mark Williams, RCBC director Kevin Kinch, RCBC chair Mahdy Al-Jassil, CDC president Victor Lozano, and CDC president Benigno Nicolasora.

## Basic defers offering

THE MANILA MARKET HAS CLAIMED another casualty in the planned offering of Basic Energy Corp. after the company announced it was putting on hold the additional offering of 3 billion common shares.

"In light of the present stock market conditions, the board approved the deferment of the application for registration of the follow on offering of 3 billion common shares of the company pending with the Securities and Exchange Commission until the market improves," said Angel Gabol, Basic Energy compliance officer.

The board of directors also said the company planned to sell its shares in Basic Energy Plc. "in such amount and at such price deemed beneficial for the company." No further details were specified.

Basic Energy also disclosed that it has signed a memorandum of understanding with New Kinabuin Construction Inc., Integrated Deepwaterway Processors Corp. and Bi-Tech Solution Co. Ltd. and Eco-Frontier Co., the latter two of which are foreign companies based in South Korea.

The MOU covers the undertaking of a feasibility study of the San Mateo Landfill project for the purpose of transforming the said dumpsite into an alternative energy source through methane gas extraction and utilization for electricity generation. Elizabeth Sanchez-Lacsamana

IntelliCare

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The Management

## Neda chief . . . From page B1

ly to a decline in government spending for infrastructure. Official documents showed that public-construction spending fell 6.4 percent in the second quarter from a year ago, a reversal from the 39.4-percent increase in the same period last year.

Reiss said government agencies should implement measures to address bottlenecks in procurement and spending.

The World Bank and the government have drawn up new measures to tighten the screening of programs and projects funded by official development assistance and thus speed up their implementation.

The World Bank announced yesterday an agreement with the government to enhance the current set of "readiness filters" in the programming of development projects co-sponsored by ODA and GOP.

Among the "filters" considered during the review were: Institutional readiness of the proponent agency, including availability of technical skills within the agency and budget space to accommodate project requirements, strong ownership within the proponent agency as manifested by the presence of a strong champion within the organization, clear support from oversight agencies, close involvement from other agencies and participatory processes with project beneficiaries, and extensive risk analysis.

Lito Cesar D. Mangawang
E-mail: pi_science_health@inquirer.com.ph

# SCIENCE/HEALTH

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# Week-long observance hopes to shed light on epilepsy

By Charles E. Rubio

EPILEPSY WAS A mystery then and remains an enigmatic condition that even the World Health Organization is doubtful if there is any other medical condition as universally neglected, due to the combination of social stigma, low profile and lack of resources.

The National Epilepsy Awareness Week—which will be celebrated from Sept. 1 to 7—seeks to change this by raising awareness of epilepsy throughout the country.

An estimated 750,000 Filipinos have epilepsy and sadly, many people around them still believe that when they have to a psychiatric disorder or mental retardation. Worse, a number of them even believe epilepsy is supernatural, caused by possession.

### Far more common

"While this neurological condition affects up to 1 to 2 percent of the population, epilepsy and epileptic seizures are far more common than people realize," said Dr. Germino Legaspi, assistant professor at the University of the Philippines College of Medicine.

He explained that we are all at risk of developing epilepsy because seizures can occur without any obvious cause.

Although it is more likely to be diagnosed in childhood or in senior years, it is not confined to any age group, sex, or race and can be diagnosed at one age.

ABBOTT (left) and neurosurgeon Legaspi believe there must be close support between doctor and patient to effectively manage epilepsy and epileptic seizures.

### Overactivity

"Epileptic seizures can be generally explained as an overactivity in the brain, often, though not always, due mostly of an injury. But one should remember that epilepsy is a disease condition, meaning, those brain disturbances should be persistent," the doctor explained.

Legaspi said early diagnosis and treatment are vital, because epileptic seizures should be stopped before the patient suffers irreversible damage. Brain cells that die during a bout can not grow back and the functions that are controlled by that brain area may be permanently lost.

Evidence suggests that these seizures do have a negative effect—and possibly result—in loss of specific brain cells. However, the evidence also indicates that this is not true for all forms of epilepsy.

"This is why a doctor's treatment objectives should be to minimize, no side effects and the earliest possible intervention," he said.

Legaspi recalled one of his patients, 44-year-old William Abbott, who experienced his first bout of epileptic seizure only two years ago.

"He did not lose consciousness or had convulsions (convulsive ictus) and tighten (tonic-clonic) like the others. Instead, his head could be characterized as sudden and short-lived, lasting a matter of seconds or minutes and consisting mainly of twitching of the eyelids, lips and neck (doctors call this simple partial seizure). Later, he was diagnosed with a brain tumor," Legaspi said.

### Maintenance therapy

After Legaspi successfully removed a significant portion of the tumor, Abbott was required to take maintenance therapy with the innovative drug, carbamazepine (Tegretol), an anti-seizure medication.

"I could attest that the maintenance therapy is working. I now have fewer bouts. And if I don't have seizure for ten years, Legaspi said I might be able to stop taking the medication," Abbott said.

Up to 70 percent of people with epilepsy ultimately become seizure-free with treatment, and many of these individuals can later stop taking medications.

Indeed, one of the most appalling misperceptions about epilepsy is that it can't be effectively treated.

### Drugs that could control

"Yes, there are medications that can often control epileptic seizures. Failing to realize this could easily lead to consciousness that even result in permanent, irreversible, irreversible disability," the doctor warned.

This is why Legaspi believes it is therefore valuable for people with epilepsy, their family, friends and their caregivers to understand the many aspects of this disorder to maximize one's chances in obtaining seizure control.

"To achieve good control of epilepsy, there must be close support between doctor and patient and their family so that the doctor could 'tailor' anticonvulsant drugs to the patient's needs. Communication channels must be open for advice and exchange of ideas," he said.

He added that for most people, epilepsy is a manageable disorder with a good prognosis.

DE GUZMAN wearing the Hug Me campaign shirt

## Online support group gives comfort to psoriasis patients

By Tess Sarmenigo

TO BE DIAGNOSED WITH psoriasis may be devastating for some. But what makes it more difficult for psoriasis patients is to find comfort and support from a group that could truly sympathize with their condition.

And who else could do a better job than those who also have psoriasis?

On Aug. 10, 2005, Josel de Guzman, a psoriasis patient himself, had this put up an online support group called Psoriasis Philippines (Psoriphil) not only to give comfort to other patients, but to also educate the public about the disease. In this way, the public may not be too hasty in discriminating against people with psoriasis.

"We try to reach out to everyone, even to those people who do not have access to the Internet, those who do not have access to modern medical treatments and especially those who withdraw from society because of the unfair and public's unconsiderate reaction," De Guzman explains.

### Activities, projects

With all the problems encountered by psoriasis patients, De Guzman decided to conduct several activities and projects that would help them recover and regain their life.

For one, Psoriphil has the Psoriasis Livelihood Association Network (Plan) wherein they offer small, incorporeal loans to psoriasis patients to help them with the small businesses they want (plan to put up, in the event that they lose their jobs due to the disease.

Recently, Psoriphil launched the Hug Me Campaign, with the belief that hugging is the best act to show that psoriasis is not contagious and they did this with the help of show-biz personalities.

With this campaign, the group has begun selling the Psoriphil bear to help fund projects, particularly to lend financial assistance to members.

For a minimum donation, one will get a bear that wears a "Hug me" shirt. The bears will eventually be made by patients who may not have a chance of finding a job due to his or her disease.

Currently, Psoriphil is the only Philippine organization recognized by the International Federation of Psoriasis Associations.

Ifpa is nonprofit organization made up of psoriasis associations from around the world.

THE FEARLY experiences you create from day one of life will determine whether your child will develop a healthy and positive sexual attitude.

# Sex education starts at home

By Rebecca B. Singson, MD, FPOGS, FACS, FPSCPC
*Contributor*

DID YOU KNOW THAT SINCE THE day your kids are born, you are already sending them messages about their sexuality. You dress them in pink to signify they are a girl and blue if they are a boy.

Being held and touched, kissed and hugged, tickled and tickled allows babies to experience comforting, positive physical sensations associated with being loved. The unique type of physical intimacy and emotional attachment between parents and infant can be the early foundation of more mature forms of physical intimacy and love that develop later as part of mature sexuality.

The way you touch and cuddle, snuggle, tickle and kiss them lets them experience comforting and positive physical sensations which make them know they are loved by you. The input you give—the kindly experiences you create from day one of life will determine whether your child... will develop a healthy and positive sexual attitude.

Through your touch, as well as your silences, your verbal and nonverbal responses and reactions teach your child your values and attitudes about sexuality.

### Getting to know the body

Children need to be taught the right labels for their body parts. A penis is the penis and a vagina is the vagina, and the vagina is the correct label for the female sex organs. When you give unmistakable names for the sexual body parts, you are conveying the message that there is something wrong or unmentionable or embarrassing about them. The children therefore are quick to absorb the idea that their genitals are something to be ashamed of.

Infants and toddlers naturally touch their genitals during diaper changes or their baby boys have frequent erections. They are curious when they undermatch their clothes and enjoy running around naked. Your verbal and nonverbal reactions (facial expressions and body language) are what give your child's first lessons in sexuality. If you show disapproval with anger, surprise or embarrassment, you teach your child that this curiosity about his or her body is very abnormal, when in fact, it should be a normal part of life.

If your child comes home telling his male organ some word he heard from others like "burlat" or "titot," you can say, "Some people call it that, but there's just a made up word. The real name is penis for vagina as the case may be.)

Children may also be curious about seeing a brother, sister, mother or father in the shower and this is usually how they learn about physical differences between boys and girls.

*(Dr. Rebecca B. Singson, an advocate for information on health issues related to the female reproductive organ, holds clinics at Makati Medical Center and at Asian Hospital and Medical Center. E-mail her at ob-rsb@surfshop.net.ph.)*

# Animal therapy for mental health

By Rafael R. Castillo

IN NORMAN ON THE WAY TO THE countryside, we passed by a "farm clinic" where horses and other farm animals are used to assist in the treatment of mental disorders such as depression, excessive anxiety and even bizarre psychoses.

It was the first time I've heard of such a clinic and I didn't realize it was already a scientifically endorsed type of animal-assisted therapy. Doctors Bente Berger, Ortrud Riedberg and Bjarne Stenstad of the Norwegian University of Life Sciences and University of Oslo have actually done well-designed studies (randomized, double-blind interventions) showing that farm animals, especially horses, improve the coping ability, disposition and overall quality of life of persons with psychiatric or mental disorders.

### One good reason

This can be one good reason to have a farm, especially for retirees, who are more prone to have episodes of depression. Researchers have long established that a major problem in the elderly which can occur more frequently than any individual physical problem is loneliness. This can lead to depression which ultimately results in all sorts of medical problems.

Recently, we had a retired professor from UP who was so depressed following the death of his spouse. In less than a year, he was diagnosed to have a cancer and he died before therapy could be initiated. He simply didn't have the will to live anymore.

If owning a farm is not possible, pets such as dogs and cats have also been shown to be effective in alleviating psychological disorders.

Cats and dogs of any size should be beneficial in animal-assisted therapy but some studies have shown that cats and smaller dogs appear to be better because they can be lifted and can be made to stay on the lap. A big dog however may be preferred as an animal companion for someone in a wheelchair, who may find some enjoyment in stroking the animal's fur.

Not only adults can psychologically benefit from pet animals, but even children as well. Children who were abused or neglected, or had undergone traumatic experiences find release of their fears and mental anguish as they communicate these emotions to their pet animals, which never tire of "listening" to their human friends. The pets give unconditional love, providing a security blanket to the traumatized or disturbed child.

### Remarkable improvements

Mary Kelly, a child-life specialist at the Children's Hospital in Oakland, California has remarkable use of dolphins to assist the remarkable improvements to their children patients. An almost instant incredible connection occurs between a child and animal in many cases.

"We've had very dramatic visits where a dog brought a child who has not spoken for months out of depression," she reports her observations. "Other kids can relate to animals, so seeing and touching the pets brings them a sense of normalcy," Kelly adds.

Although cats and dogs are the most popular pets, experts in animal-assisted therapy have shown that other pets such as fish, birds, reptiles, rabbits, guinea pigs, farm animals and even pigs are also effective healers. Pets in general have been found to lower blood pressure, reduce stress levels, encourage patients to exercise, allow communication and offer a sense of security.

### Study findings

Four latest research patterns seem to benefit from animal-assisted therapy in one study, researchers have shown that patients discharged from a coronary care unit with a diagnosis of myocardial infarction (heart attack) or angina (chest pains) had lower deaths after a year if they had pets at home. Eleven of 39 who did not own pets died within a year of admission to the hospital, while only three of the 53 pet owners died. The limitation of the study was that the patients in the two groups were not randomized so they may not have had the same severity of heart disease.

In another study (Anderson, 1992), men who owned pets had significantly lower systolic blood pressure than the nonpet owners, and they also had significantly lower blood levels of triglycerides and cholesterol levels. Similar findings were noted in the women group. The explanation given for these results is that pet owners exercised more than the nonowners.

The researchers concluded that the pet owners in their study had lower levels of risk factors for cardiovascular dis-

MEDICAL FILES

ease, and this was explicable on the basis of smoking, diet, weight, or socioeconomic profile.

Pet ownership was also shown to confer significant benefits on general health of senior citizens in a yearlong study of 938 Medicare enrollees (Siegel, 1990). The pet owners had fewer visits to the doctor within that year.

### Help speed up recovery

It may be stretching it too far but some advocates of pet-assisted therapy recommend that it should be started even before the patient is confined. They theorize that it can help accelerate recovery if hospitalized patients show pets can provide a home-like atmosphere. They are united in have an uplifting effect on patients, visitors and staff. Benefits include the reduction of stress and anxiety associated with hospitalization.

I'm not too sure if allowing pets in the hospital is a good thing to do since it can just increase the incidence of hospital-acquired infections. This circumstance will surely encounter a lot of objections from hospital administrators and even staffs although a pet-friendly hospital can perhaps attract a lot of patients who are pet lovers.

# BUSINESS

# Remittances boost broad money supply in June

By Doris C. Dumlao

THE COUNTRY'S BROAD MONEY SUPPLY expanded at a faster rate in June compared with the previous month, partly due to the surge in remittances from overseas workers to fund for the opening of the school year, central bank data showed.

Domestic liquidity or m3 grew by 5.1 percent year-on-year in June, from the 3.7 percent annual growth in May, driven by the double-digit growth in net foreign assets, the Bangko Sentral ng Pilipinas reported yesterday.

Net foreign assets that flowed into the BSP's international reserves, as well as to other depository institutions, jumped by 17.7 percent in June over a year ago. It was earlier reported that money sent home by overseas Filipinos through banks hit an all-time high of $1.5 billion in June—up by a hefty 30 percent more than of the previous year.

"The BSP shall continue to keep an eye on domestic liquidity to ensure that growth is supportive of sustainable economic growth," BSP Governor Amando Tetangco Jr. said in a statement.

One of the key indicators closely watched in managing inflation, domestic liquidity is a measure of the entire supply of money within an economy. It includes cash in circulation, demand deposits, money market funds and short-term investible bank deposit assets.

The BSP also reported a significant expansion in private credit, as net domestic assets posted a positive growth of 1.5 percent in June. This was a reversal of the contraction that began in August 2007.

On the other hand, the "net other items" account—which includes the BSP's special deposit accounts and reverse repurchase agreements (transactions legitimized by securities) —remained in negative territory.

Credit extended to the private sector picked up in June to reach 11.8 percent from the 8.6 percent increase recorded in May. The BSP in June shifted to a "hawkish" monetary stance to stem the effects of high inflation.

By adopting a hawkish stance, the BSP tends to tighten monetary policy—such as by raising key interest rates and the ratio on banks' reserve requirements—to curb consumer and business spending that may further fuel inflation.

But with a tight monetary policy the country's economic growth is slowed down.

The rise in consumer prices grew by an average rate of 12.2 percent in July—the fastest pace in 17 years. This brought the seven-month inflation average to 9.2 percent.

Meanwhile, credit extended to the public sector continued to grow but at a slower pace of 2 percent in June from 6.9 percent the previous month, due to less credit extended to the government and a decline in loans to local governments and other government agencies.

## US firm takes on RP personal care market

By Ronnel W. Domingo

NASDAQ-LISTED FOOD SUPPLEMENT firm Unimi Health Sciences said it plans to begin operations in the Philippines, making the country its 14th market worldwide.

The Utah-based firm develops and manufactures nutritional, personal care and weight management products that are sold chiefly to its agents and distributors.

Unimi makes products that contain micronized and nanosized ingredients to help the body flush free radicals as well as "science-based" personal care products that replenish and rejuvenate skin and hair."

Adele Gross the United States Unimi is set to operate in Canada, Australia, New Zealand, Hong Kong, Japan, Taiwan, South Korea, Singapore, Malaysia, Mexico, the Netherlands and the United Kingdom.

"Entering the Philippines is makes Unimi's international reach and we are excited to offer many of our associate leaders an opportunity to expand their organizations into a market where they already have strong ties," chief executive Dave Wentz said in a statement.

"We believe this market will be another strong part of our growing international portfolio," Wentz said.

Gilbert Dela Cruz, the Direct Selling Association of the Philippines, the country represents a total of $500 million in direct selling revenues yearly.

Wentz said that being one of the 25 largest markets globally for direct sales, the Philippines offers "significant opportunity" for Unimi.

"We believe that significant growth opportunities continue to exist in markets where we currently conduct business and in new international markets," the company said.

## Gov't set to secure infra, agri projects, apart from mining

By Amy R. Remo

THE DEPARTMENT OF ENVIronment and Natural Resources has expanded the scope of the proposed environmental security risk force to include not only mining, but also agriculture, infrastructure and telecommunications projects.

Expected to be mobilized by next month, the Investment Defense Force was initially created by several government agencies to ensure both local and foreign mining firms of greater and stricter security in their respective mine areas.

In particular, the IDF will be tasked to protect mining firms who had been under attack by communist rebel groups, but has recently aided groups attacked by Lepanto Phil's planned $3-billion Tampakan copper-gold mine in South Cotabato.

Initially, the IDF would focus its security forces in four regions namely the Bicol region, Southern Mindanao, Davao region and the Caraga region.

Environment Secretary Lito Atienza said that the national government was prioritizing the securitization of all security concerns of investors as well as the owners/shareholders of partnership disputes which had caused significant delays of mining projects.

"We will not allow continuing stagnation of the industry simply because of contending interests," Atienza warned.

Final discussions on the IDF will be taken up by Philippine Mining Development Corp., but Reid approved out issuance of a resolution creating the IDF would be made by the Minerals Development Council (MDC).

The creation of the IDF has underscored the importance of securing recently and enriched porphyry deposits, which have been cushed by foreign investors as areas of concern that are affecting their interest in the Philippine mining sector.

## Opening of school year prompted 5.1% rise in domestic liquidity

## *Under Neri's watch, SSS bent on raising '08 income by 15%*

By Michelle V. Ramos

IN HIS FIRST PRESS CONFERENCE AS head of the Social Security System, Romulo Neri yesterday vowed to improve the collection of members' unpaid loans and contributions...now running into billions of pesos—in its effort to improve the financial stability of the state-owned fund.

Already, the new head has set itself a goal of posting P51.54 billion in net income this year—21 percent higher than that of last year.

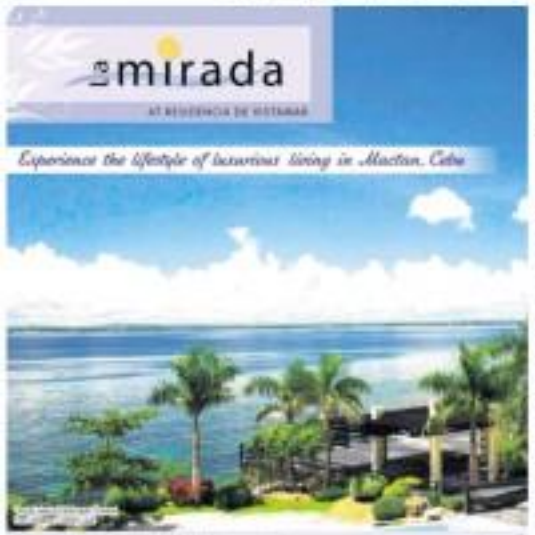
"One of our priorities is to clean up SSS records and to improve collection from members," Neri said in the conference.

Unpaid salary loan and interest to P36 billion, he said, outstanding that account for 90 to 95 percent of cases not paid due for at least five years.

According to Neri, the SSS in the meantime has no plans of increasing the required contributions of members just to beef up the institution's financial health. But he said the 9.66 would certainly go after its delinquents.

Efforts to improve revenue collection are meant to increase the amount of funds disbursed as members' benefits. The SSS in the posted a positive financial performance in the first half, disbursing a higher amount for benefits. Neri said the SSS would not be venturing this through the second half.

"Higher revenues are meaningless if it is not translated into better SSS benefits, and

After the sold-out success of the now fully operational Seda Mactan Island Hotel comes **La Mirada**, the second of four towers in Residencia de Huermar.

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## Quezon (Tayabas) Association to turn 85 with event on Aug. 30

Jeni L. Talampas – QTA Grandmaster President

Monica Barros – QTA Lady President

The Quezon (Tayabas) Association, Inc. (QTA) will hold a grand dance night in celebration of its founding anniversary at the grand ballroom of Sofitel Philippine Plaza Manila on Saturday, August 30.

At 85, this association organization has done a lot of projects that benefited thousands of provincemates in Quezon. These include providing them with education and health care, livelihood opportunities and rendering various community services.

Originally organized by the late President Manuel L. Quezon, it is their heritage to host their despite the passage of years, the association has not waned in its commitment to social contributions.

The association is proud to have chosen Grandmaster/President Jeni L. Talampas et al., actress and Lady Grandmaster Monica Barros-Ramos of Lucban to serve and lead this year's social and humanitarian commitments to further the cause of scholarship/awards programs.

The Mayor de Manila will be ready open the ceremonies at a tradition that dates back to the Commonwealth era when the dance signaled the start of the Presidential inaugural Ball in Malacañang. Personalities from Quezon province will perform a rare version of the famous Quezon Band music. Choreography is by Ishah James Flores and Renato Delgado.

The QTA's 24 years of hospitality are Joel Salvador & Wanda Bolivar-Reyes, Teodoro Mayor Ernie Talampas & Nilda Talampas, Atela Suarez, Lito Talampas & Ruby Talaga, Cesar Dulanyo & Lil Barcelona, Joey & Julie Uy, Lorenzo Gonzales Barney & Grace Bernardo, Florial Estropia & Constancia Allen, Johnny Flamero & Fe Sison, Ben Cabanos & Betty Cabanos, Reynaldo & Emy Ramsay, Jess & Cynthia Zafra, Francis & Edna Uy, Jones & Cathy de Leon-Vitor, Jose Noynay & Ms. Cecilia Vitor, Hugo & Pilar Rodona, Jose Angelo & Lara Figueroa, Dr. Ernie & Gloria Bernardo-Sangco, Lorenzo Mayor Hermilando Talaga & Jenny Sumile-Lopez, Lito & Nilda Sumalpo, Butch Atienza & Bip Sosia, Joe Andre & Ella Cordeiro Tiuseo & Teresa Guerrero, Tony Orbe & Ate Rachel Arandia-Orbe & Art Belmonte.

A very special, not to mention a well-prepared, song and dance medley from the Broadway hits Annie, Oklahoma and High School Musical is a must-see production. Choreographed by Richard Cabral. Perhaps the star-laden cast of first appearances 31 to 161 of QTA's alumni is self-evidently among the proud and benefactors.

Prepare to be entertained by Pangalo Galicia of the Makati Band for the narration of Cinema of the Sky from the movie Pippin.

The young entrepreneurs and professionals of QTA are also involved in forging ties for a cause. To celebrate a celebration of Fiesta's Tango and Waltz, as choreographed by Art-Jun Garcia, are warm personalities, namely Bisart Rodrigo, Jun & Pauline Valle (Barrio Bliss Cabana), Rhoda Jimenez, Patrick Sorrenino, Dodoh Rebel-Lapointe, Annie Bautista and Gee Villanueva.

Ayo Talampas of Atimonan, Quezon and partner Abigail Ilao (Let's all dance a Latin beat) from the movie Zoom and the My Beautiful Movie.

The celebration will not be complete without the farewell walk of Karen Rodriguez Pajarillo and the re-crowning of incoming 2008 QTA Junior Miss Quezon, 9, daughter of Marvin Mary Antonio Y. Rodriguez, daughter of Marvin Barcelona and Josephine Nemal. Her parent Reuben Emmanuele T. Buenaba is the son of Angie Gonzales and Ayo Talampas.

The QTA Lady Grandmaster is under the careful direction of Rodel Arandia. It is an event to remember and a date to mark for all Quezonians.

Many are looking forward to more fruitful years of QTA's excellence.

# PROPERTY

Edited by Cesar O. Mangahas

# Innovative eco-home shows way to affordable housing in RP

By Charlie E. Bakas

BUILDING AN ECO-friendly house on a tight budget?

This is no longer an impossible dream as a small but dedicated group of Filipino architects are currently trying to rethink the concept of the eco-home to meet the needs of low- and middle-income homebuyers.

"In the environmental crisis we find ourselves in, we must be responsible enough to grab the headlines, the need for eco-friendly home designs is becoming increasingly urgent. Sadly, this issue had to take a back seat here in the Philippines where a lot of Filipinos are still homeless or living in substandard housing. There should be a way to solve this," said architect James Jacinto-Cruz and co-founder Shed-mind, an organization composed of budding architects and members of United Architects of the Philippines from Luzon, Visayas and Mindanao.

His group's solution, LuzVilMin Eco-House Initiative, a blueprint of a Filipino house that is 25 percent more energy-efficient than a regular house, cheaper to build, and is constructed in accordance to the strict and world-renowned building regulations mandated of the United Kingdom.

## Heightened awareness

"There's no question that there's a heightened awareness about the environment in the United Kingdom, with majority of its people placing eco-friendliness in the forefront and in every aspect of their daily lives. What we are doing is applying some of these concepts in our LuzVilMin Eco-House initiative project," explained

(CONTINUED ON B12)


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AT THE ARANETA CENTER

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Is Born at the Metro's Center.

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WEEKENDS | Relax, socialize and have fun in oh so many ways.

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DEVELOPED

# The most energy-efficient retrofitted buildings in ASEAN 2008

(Conclusion)

THE BUILDINGS SECTOR IS A major culprit for high concentrations of carbon dioxide in the atmosphere. It also presents three times more cost-effective savings opportunity than the transportation sector in reducing carbon emissions.

It is more cost-effective to tackle a building energy efficiency issue in the beginning. But we know that unless a facility is continuously fine-tuned and managed for energy savings, short-term problems will lead to long-term drop in efficiency. This leads us to the importance of retrofitting existing buildings for energy savings.

This is essence is the message that the Asean Energy Awards has been conveying since its inception nine years ago.

The Asean Energy Awards is Southeast Asia's most prestigious annual awards program that recognizes outstanding works in the field of energy. It provides international prominence and recognition to outstanding companies and individuals who consistently apply the concepts, systems and technologies of energy-efficiency and conservation.

Entries are prequalified by the Department of Energy in each country. Awardees are chosen through a competition by a board of judges made up of top representatives from each country of Asean.

In this category the minimum prequalification requirement is an energy savings of 20 percent of the total energy consumption.

## GREEN ARCHITREND

Jaime Ang
ale Arnaiz

### Category awardees

The year's awardees are Singapore Post Limited (winner), the Philippines' Enterprise Center (first runner-up) and Vietnam's Majestic Hotel (second runner-up).

**THE WINNER**

*The Singapore Post Centre (Singapore)*

The building, which is a mixed development of a retail podium, office block and industrial complex, occupies a site area of 32,700 square meters and was completed in 1999. It has 3 basements, 14 stories and a gross floor area of 157,300 square meters.

The mail processing center is designed as a 24-hour mail and parcel processing hub to serve the entire city. It is equipped with one of the most modern and efficient mail sorting systems in the region.

Its active system consists of a central chilled water plant room, high accuracy sensors, variable speed drives for pumps, flow metering devices and high efficiency chillers with efficient refrigerants.

Its passive design includes double glazed windows and skylights to reduce heat penetration, metal cladding to reflect sunlight, and water features to reduce the temperature around the building.

The Building Management System (BMS) provides a smooth integration of the air-conditioning, mechanical, lighting, car park systems, etc.

The total energy savings is 22.17 percent of total energy consumption.

**FIRST RUNNER-UP**

*The Enterprise Center Building (Philippines)*

The building occupies a site area of 7,488 square meters on Ayala Avenue, Makati City. It was completed in 1998. It has 7 basements with 2 mezzanines and on top of a 5-story podium block. Total gross floor area is 148,000 square meters.

The Enterprise Center is a premiere high-rise twin tower office development equipped with state-of-the-art office support utility systems.

Its active system includes variable air volume boxes that control the air movement of each office per demo-temperature setting, fluorescent exhaust fans that automatically bring in fresh air when the carbon monoxide level increases, motorized sunshades to reduce heat emitted through curtain walls, lighting controls, light sensors and recovery of condensate drain water for toilet flushing and irrigation.

Passive design includes proper orientation and exterior finishes such as granite and aluminum curtain wall with galvanized steel sheet cladding and rigid thermal insulation. The lobby has huge glass panels that bring in natural light and a skylight provides natural light for the food court.

The BMS monitors and controls mechanical and electrical services to achieve total energy savings of 27.15 percent of total energy consumption.

VIETNAM'S Majestic Hotel

THE PHILIPPINES' Enterprise Center

**SECOND RUNNER-UP**

*Majestic Hotel (Vietnam)*

Majestic Hotel is a well-known, five-star hotel built by French architects in 1925. It occupies a site area of about 2,000 square meters. It has 179 luxuriously furnished rooms located within 2 rectangular blocks, one with 9 stories and the other 6 stories. Total gross floor area is 12,800 square meters.

Some of its energy-saving strategies are: complete replacement of over 4,400 filament lamps with Ofra compact fluorescent lamps; replacement of old air-conditioning units with highly-efficient ones; replacing electric water heaters with solar heaters and using energy-efficient LCD TV for all the guest rooms instead of conventional TV.

The lower floor has side-and roof-hinge which are covered with gravel to reduce the effect of solar radiation. Special heat-rejecting glass covers all windows and doors at the façade for protection from the Sun and North-east side of the building. A courtyard with a swimming pool and extensive vegetation helps provide natural light and air for the guest rooms.

The total energy savings is 20.15 percent of total energy consumption.

As a member of the Asean Energy Awards board of judges, I am encouraged by the result of this year's competition. I hope that we get more Philippine entries for next year's competition. For details please call: Marlon Domingo of the Department of Energy at 840-2243 or 840-1481 to 90.

*For comments or inquiries, e-mail annualsolutions@gmail.com.*

# Amenities with panoramic golf views abound at 8 Forbes Town Road

IMAGINE WAKING UP TO THE abundance of natural light seeping into your room while panoramic fairways dotted with shade trees, powdery sand, and meticulous rolled strands your senseless eyelids into a symbol of gold. Or visually bask in the beauty of verdant landscape that greets you as you savor your first cup of brew before breaking into your early day routine.

This visual montage is a stunning spectacle awarded in a nominal residence, to the elite residents of 8 Forbes Town Road Golf View Residences.

This 30-story housing edifice, the only remaining luxury residential condominium of bellish property giant Megaworld Corp. in front of the Manila Golf Club, is perched on the fast-developing five-hectare land and fashion strip of Forbes Town Center within world-class Bonifacio Global City.

"8 Forbes Town Road is Megaworld's bold move in pegging striking landmark at the last prime location in Global City capturing a fantastic half a kilometer vistas of well-manicured golf courses that residents can enjoy the view at the comfort of their own homes or at the pleasure zone to be located at the seventh level," said Megaworld SVP for Marketing and project head Noel Hernandez.

### Ultimate rewards

After having a bucket of balls to unwind from stressful outings, or just hops after a relaxing stroll along the smoothly maintained fairways and putting green while watching a play-ers makes an eagle putt or sees birdie, it's time to head to the seventh level, aptly called the pleasure zone where a host of well-appointed recreational amenities await you.

There's no need to make a long one-hour drive to exercise yourself a good deserved luxurious treat. As an luxe sanctuary will be unfolded at the seventh deck of 8 Forbes Town Road, a paradise tucked in lush flora against a breathtaking backdrop of sprawling emerald fairways and glistening blisked skyline.

Melt away and plunge into soothing blue waters of the infinity pool that stretches to boundless greenery of the golf course. Recline in the thatched pool designed with water jets and enjoy the canopy of indigo clouds. Take time alone in the tranquil reflecting pool framed by fingers of foliage. Grab your favorite book, or bask in your iPhone while you work on your tan by the pool deck. Engage in an invigorating head-to-toe pampering massage treatment in the outdoor spa.

Landscape and total gardens carefully planned by Design Alliance are ideal for jogging, while a refreshing patch and is the ultimate spot for dining in place. Burn some calories and work on those muscles in a fully equipped state-of-the-art gym.

The area is for all ages. There's a garden area for the elderly with circadian flowers where one can escape for a quick respite. And there's a fully padded playroom where kids can pounce and frolic while you pretend to cyber business engagements unperturbed.

### Hole-in-one investment

Living at 8 Forbes Town Road designed by the award-winning Felipe Custodio + Casas architectural firm is like wearing a hole-in-one, with a rundown of first-class endowments especially designed for the privileged circle. With just a touch the down the elevator, residents are ushered to a array of exceptional restaurants and world's top fashion brands at the ground and second levels of this all-glass pedestal edifice.

As lucky as its nineties, this address puts you in a distinct and progressive community inspired by urban hubs of Singapore, Hong Kong and Shanghai, where it's style and luxury tangled in heavy traffic for a show at Net Bonifacio Open Field, SBC Stadium, Bike time alone in the tranquil reflecting pool framed by fingers of foliage. Grab your favorite book, or bask in your iPhone while you work on your tan by the pool deck. Engage in an invigorating head-to-toe pampering massage treatment in the outdoor spa.

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ADVERTISE HERE

SM City Marikina

# SM City Marikina opens Sept. 5

GREAT SHOPPING, LEISURE AND ENTERtainment will go to the one metro town when SM City Marikina opens its doors to the public on Friday, Sept. 5.

Located on a 195,000-square-meter site on Marcos Highway Barangay Calumpang, Marikina City, the 125,000-sq-m mall is SM Prime Holdings' first supermall and the first to open this year.

The mall is projected to be a catalyst in the growth of Marikina City, which is considered as one of the most progressive cities in Metro Manila. Various programs have been implemented to achieve its vision. City ordinances have been passed on waste management, senior law enforcement, vehicular traffic management, repair of road and bridges, construction of new arterial roads and the rehabilitation of the Marikina River.

### Business, finance triangle

At the center of all the programs is the creation of the Riverbanks Center, which has been declared as the city's business, finance and commercial triangle. SM City Marikina is located in the Riverbanks Center and will serve customers in this bustling city as well as those in Brgy. City Center, San Mateo, Quezon City and Antipolo City.

With its grand entrance, high ceilings, display of glass, steel and Modern Asian touches, the new mall will be a landmark in the area. With the SM Department Store and Supermarket as its anchors, it will bring shopping excitement to the area with its mix of SM mainstays like the SM Appliance Center, SCR Storebuyers, the Surplus Shop, Watsons and top homegrown and international brands.

The latest lockup Cinema boutiques, home stores, shoe stores, bookstores, jewelry stores and service shops.

### Great food choices

Shallows will also have great food choices...as the SM Foodcourt, local and homegrown fast-food chains, and al fresco dining restaurants. SM City Marikina will also have eight cinemas, including 4 digital cinemas, each with a seating capacity of 477 seats and 4 seating cinemas, each with a seating capacity of 300. Shallows will have fun at the mall's Cybercow, which will feature the latest in computers, gadgets and video accessories.

For customer convenience, SM City Marikina will have more than a thousand parking slots, including provisions for motorcycle parking. It will also have a jeepney terminal for commuters.

SM City Marikina's design team includes Jose Lluis Ling and Associates, architecture; D.A. Aberde and Associates, project planning; and SF Coop., general contractors.

# Innovative eco-home shows way to affordable housing in RP

From page B3

Jan takes command his Master's degree in City Design and Social Sciences degree from the London School of Economics and Political Sciences.

The houses that will be built under the project aims to achieve a rating of five (5) (a being the highest) for multi-compliance as set by the UK Code for Sustainable Homes. (The UK code measures the sustainability of a home against key design categories namely: energy, water, materials, surface water run-off, waste, pollution, health and well-being as well as management and ecology).

"The project's short-term goal is to build one model house each in Luzon, Visayas and Mindanao. Eventually, the Lot Bilinda Eco-House Initiative is aimed at helping the government and the housing industry achieve a zero-carbon standards for new houses within 10 years.

A zero carbon house is defined as a property such "zero net energy" or zero carbon dioxide from all energy use in the home, including energy consumed by appliances such as TVs and cookers, and not just other uses that are currently part of building regulations, including cooling system and water heater.

### Mockup house

To further demonstrate what a Lot Bilinda Eco-House Initiative will look like, a mock-up house is already under construction at the open parking area just across the SMX Convention Center located at the SM Mall of

A 360-DEGREES VIEW of the eco-house that will be on display at the SMX Convention Center during the MandaCon '08 event.

# Cost-effective ways to make the most of your appliances

THERE IS IT!!! "SAVE!! ENERGY!!! FUEL and Money!!" promo. Anything Do It Best Home Center (Hardwhere) recommends practical and cost-effective ways to make the most of your appliances.

The process is surely instructive as all Handyman Do It Best Home Center and Handyman Do It Center branches located in all Robinsons malls, all Waltermart malls and other malls nationwide.

• **Kitchen.** Keep link on your small pans when cooking to minimum heat. Toss the burner down once you've reached the desired heat level. Buy only pans whose skins (sands the bases?). Check the seal on your oven to avoid "peeking" inside more than necessary for reheating or baking small items, use microwave ovens and even toasters since these are more energy-efficient than the stove when reheating foods.

Refrigerators account for about 30 per cent of energy costs but you can lower your expenses by keeping the refrigerator as close to 37 degrees and the freezer as close to 0 degrees as possible. Any colder will make you just waste energy. Keep the refrigerator as full as possible as the food in there will have an easier time maintaining a steady temperature which translates to less energy. Clean them regularly. The gasket around your refrigerator and freezer door seals is to keep them to prevent cold from escaping. But, your dishwasher only when it's full, otherwise, air-drying your dishes and utensils is a better alternative.

• **Family room.** Turn off lights when not using them. Switch off TV sets, stereos and other gadgets when not in use. So on on power, have TV set, DVD player and other electronic appliances unplugged when not in use. Before you drink those products are off, together, their "standby" consumption can be equivalent to that of a 75- or 100-watt light bulb running continuously.

• **Laundry and bath.** If you're using a washer/dryer, use it down to "warm," just enough for your early morning shower but not so hot that it wastes energy and presents a scald danger. When doing the laundry, being clothes to dry using indoor drying racks or outside on clothes lines to save energy. Check out for leaks. Handyman has pipe wrenches, washers and water tank repair kit (or disconnect items) which will help fix the faucet or lavatory leak and save you gallons of water.

• **Bedrooms.** Check the air conditioner filter monthly and clean or replace it as needed. Keep filters black airflow through your heating and cooling systems, increasing your energy bill and shortening the equipment's life. At Handyman, you get free easy wipes for every water-pack stereo filter you purchase. It's to use electric fans or inexpensive coolers as it uses only one-fourth of the conventional air conditioner. Handyman recommends an electric fan for maximum comfort that helps you use fewer or about 1/10th of your electricity consumption. During daytime, open your windows and let the breeze in.

• **Home office spaces.** Activate "sleep" features on computers and other electronic equipment that power down when not in use for a while. Turn off equipment during longer periods of recess to cut energy costs and improve longevity. Unplug your chargers when you're not charging your cell phones, PDAs, digital cameras, cordless tools and other personal gadgets.

"Unplug" and "switch off" are just some of the terms that will eventually equate to "save." Handyman also suggests that when replacing appliances and home requirements, buying wisely is key. Energy-efficient homes are less costly to operate and maintain and preserve the more comfortably when you know you're saved up on your bills and helped save the environment.

# Fundamental ways of being happy and contented

HAPPINESS IS THE COMMON GOAL OF all the people in the world. It is a state of mind wherein the somatic basis of psychiatric and intellectual pain no longer be explained in words. We look for it in planes, in people or sometimes in things we do. But those who have found joy and happiness have realized that it has always been within all along, it's just a matter of appreciating it.

The richest man can fill a world's bank with his cash but all his money cannot buy him a richer out of his empty life. The poorest man may be physically but his heart may be rich with fulfillment. The average man may be, but its finding ways on his family could survive but he definitely knows where to find his happiness, science called home.

Paul Bautista's concept of happiness is Riverfront Residences. A DMCI Homes project, Riverfront Residences has conceptualized the concept of condo living by offering its residents thousand of reasons to be happy as they enjoy the life they believe. This haven is the heart of Pasig City offers the one that you have been looking for, the recipe to make your lives happier and satisfying.

A DMCI part of Riverfront Residences' appeal lies in the lush, 2,000-square-meter Forest View Park that curves around its borders.

## Finding happiness

Riverfront Residences allows you to enjoy a quality sojourner with your kids by bonding and laughing with them at the condo's very own 250-sq-m swimming pool. A dip in the inviting pool will definitely make the kids smile and laugh as they fill your heart with satisfaction and fulfillment of such treasured times.

The playground and tots center would be the bonding time of your toddlers' happy childhood memories which would also be your source of happiness as parents. Your teenagers will enjoy the condo's covered basketball court and badminton courts; nothing beats the family like doing an activity that makes them happy. You and your friends and relatives can also have wonderful "al fresco" moments together like parties and celebrations in the upper level landscaped deck.

With a 2,000-sq-m Forest View Park set along the banks of the scenic Marikina River. Find the true meaning of happiness as you enjoy the scenery with the entire family. The Park's garden is the perfect spot for picnics, daily strolls, lazy weekends and get-togethers.

## Live-play lifestyle

The Riverfront Residences' resort-like amenities embrace a live-play lifestyle, which most of us find happiness since it relaxes us. Here, you find relaxed, revived and inspired, encouraging creativity and productivity as you and your family enjoy the audio-video room, lounge area, bar, gym, bakeshop and the clubhouse. The clubhouse features a Wi-Fi service, where coffee breaks and things needing your attention could be attended to.

Since the condo could also cater to large business meetings or other business transactions through its function room and multipurpose room, raising business on your pleasurable home experience may be possible.

With a professional management team constantly anticipating your needs, you can rest assured your mind at ease and have peace of mind.

## Good location

Riverfront Residences is near the business centers—Ortigas Center and Greenhills City. It is also near premier shopping centers like SM Pasig and Shaw Boulevard and most of all the schools you would no longer have a problem with schools like Ateneo de Manila, Miriam College, University of Asia and Pacific, and University of the Philippines just around the area. A premium overhead hailing The Medical City is also what you want to ease your mind when medical problems occur.

Riverfront Residences is a tony community of 12 mid-rise buildings bordered by the magnificent 2,000-sq-m Forest View Park. Pasig's premier address for sophisticated design that adheres to modern living embraces surrounding the scenic Marikina River.

Riverfront Residences is another prime development of real estate developer, DMCI Homes. DMCI Homes is the country's first triple A builder/developer that offers amateur investors earning families optimum value for their money by providing homes with exceptional features and amenities.


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# Innovative eco-home . . .

From page B2-1

Asia Complex in Pasay City.

It will be open for public viewing from Sept. 4 to 7 as part of MandaCon '08 (Manila Construction Show 2000) event that will be held at the SMX Convention Center.

"The event will mutually benefit our sponsor group. Mandaluyong wanted to gain more exposure for its Low-Rise Eco-House initiative while LA Decor Co., which organized the MandaCon '08, wanted partners that bring forward viable ideas for the Philippine market.

## Provide access

But aside from the mockup units that will be displayed during the MandaCon '08, Jao informed that they are already in the process of building actual units for their first few clients.

"One of our requirements is for the owner to agree to an 'open house program' arrangement that would allow people to view the house and even experience how to live in one. Our objective here is to convince the public about its applicability here in the Philippines," Jao explained.

In fact, one of Mandaluyong's first client, Mel Isaacson-based Fifth Gospel Center, has agreed to the arrangement.

Her eco-house, which will be built in her hometown in Batangas, is the basis of the mockup house that will be displayed during the MandaCon '08.

"I love the idea of this eco-house that makes use of natural sunlight and solar energy. After all we are in the tropics where sunshine is all year round and we can make sure that we would use the sun and the average temperature is at 30 degrees," said the Davao who will be gracing the opening of the eco-house display at the MandaCon '08.

## How it's done

So, how will the Low-Mandaluyong Eco-House Initiative be constructed?

"I mean with the building mockup which will be composed of a prefab modular panels made of concrete combined with polystyrene material. These panels are excellent insulators that minimize heat absorption. The exterior walls will be protected by 'Hollyguard' while the interiors sealed by an anti-bacterial paint. The roof will feature 2-ton PVC materials that is locally manufactured in Pasig City," he said.

He added that window louvers will also be made from PVC.

To make the eco-house utilize water more efficiently, Jao said they have ordered toilet with dual flush—choosers that give out 6-7 liters of water per solution—and there will be a tank that will collect rain water. To save water, solar energy will be utilized.

For the lighting requirements, Jao said they will use Megatron's energy-saving light bulbs, which is the brand to which mandaluyong and which at the same time, could be powered by solar energy.

For the appliances "low-e" white line products—washing machine and refrigerator—have been selected to provide less cost for energy to the household.

"There will also be a 'green wall,' which is a vertical garden that will work well in urban setting where space is tight. Herbs and veg. edibles could be planted here. Even wood products will be sourced from farmed forests and will be treated with eco-friendly solutions for less environmental impact," Jao described.

The architect added that the Low-Mandaluyong Eco-House Initiative is an excellent example of a house where sustainability is designed in and should act as a benchmark for future houses here in the Philippines.

# Amenities with . . .

From page B2-1

and the soon-to-rise Tagaig Coliseum and Convention Center. Get off in a jiffy for your regular hunt down the open allure of fruits—or high tenace, or in the spacious one-stop shops of SM Home Depot and Price Smart.

At the world-class neighborhood of Global City, take pleasure in unrivaled mobility from business hubs, commercial establishments to learning centers. Top rubber schools are a few blocks from your home. Britain, Roman, Chinese, Japanese and American international schools. European-style education at the exclusive Assumption College, Colegio de San Agustin, Colegio de Sta. Rosa and Don Bosco Technical Institute, Endicott College and Asian Institute of Management are also close by.

If living a hale in our serene countryside, aiming for something parallel in such would be your nearest port to success. For inquiries on prime investment choices available in 8 Forbes Town Road, please visit the Forbes Town Center showroom on Road Drive on 26th Street, Bonifacio Global City.


# MANILACON 08 Features Products For Sustainable Built Environment

Cognizant of the power of trade exhibitions to showcase products, strengthen brands and create a positive impact in response to global concerns, MANILACON 08 (Construction Show Manila) – a B2B Construction and Building Exhibit scheduled on September 04 to 07, 2008 at the SMX Convention Center – will feature building solutions and innovations for a sustainable built environment.

Among these is VGM (Vertical Greening Module) Green Wall. These modules are designed to enhance the environment by facilitating vertical landscaping of indoor and outdoor walls, building facades, walkways, linkways and garden landscapes.

VGM Green Wall comprises vertical greening modules assembled from high strength lightweight structural panels incorporating interlocking snap-on clips manufactured from 100% recycled plastics. The front panel has a unique grid to facilitate plantings of up to 16 plants per panel.

Unaffected by seasons and algae and resistant to oils, acid, alkalis and insects, VGM Green Wall modules add aesthetic site value, enhance air quality, reduce airborne pollutants and room noise and sound while improving heat and sound insulation of walls and facades.

VGM Green Wall is distributed in the country by Ingenieria Masterkorp, Inc. which also carries WaterDam® for storm water management and WaterBrain® ZSF Water Reclamation and Drainage Slabs for green roofs over tops of buildings & walkways and roof systems among its other product lines. For more inquiries, email sales sales@indacor.com or visit www.GreenerStandardsMexico.com or www.MANILACON.com.

# PROPERTY

PICK Manila, touted as Manila's shopping and entertainment center in Ayala's mixed-use development, Cebuana Lhuillier Tower, Pinoy eateries and specialties, and Chinese food with seafood cuisine from Thailand, Japan and Spain.

## Ayala property in Manila 'sacrifices' 7,000 sq m for green space


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GE imagination at work


By Tess R. Salazar

THE FIRST DEVELOPMENT of an Ayala Land company in Manila has set aside 7,000 square meters for open space and greenery.

This was revealed by Dan Mendis, Alveo Land president, during the Aug. 27 launch of Cebuana Manila's lifestyle residential market called PICK Manila. He added that Ayala Land has long been aware of environmental concerns as a developer and has "sacrificed" a significant portion of land for this.

As a result, Cebuana Manila is considered a low-density development with the integration of different uses.

Its upscale yet hi-rise integrated mixed-development, Cebuana Manila is composed of residential development, business process outsourcing services with an 8-storey building, recreation facilities and retail center with tenant mix by Ayala Malls group.

### Environmental conservation

"We do guarantee, we make sure that relevant components have been put into our project in support of environmental conservation," Mendis said.

According to him, it has been an Ayala heritage since the 1950s, characteristic of the Forbeses, Bel-Air and Forbes commercials, to have allotted lush greeneries. He added that Ayala properties are provided enough space so trees could be planted along the roads.

Mendis said it has been an Ayala Land company practice to have consultants to help provide information on the impact of relative landfills on the communities especially in construction and dumping points.

"Whenever you drive to any of our Ayala developments they are 'mandatories' to land. Ayala masterplanners are very conscious of the [population] density levels," he said.

### Reduce energy consumption

Jay Jozef, vice president for Alveo Land projects and development, said the developer has incorporated key elements of green buildings—interior lighting and natural ventilation—into Cebuana Manila.

Mendis said this concept aims to reduce energy consumption, which would benefit residents. He added that less energy consumption would mean less carbon dioxide emissions.

Cebuana Lhuillier Unit delivered prime range homes P9.8 to P14 million, while the Cebuana Park (condominium) units rose to P3.4 million. Jozef said these developments cater to the underserved market in Manila.

Ninety percent of the construction, and 98 percent of the total units, have been completed.

### First call center site in Manila

Cebuana Manila's BPO sector is touted to be the biggest in Manila, and will be built courtesy of Ayala Land Businessparks. Alveo Land executives said Cebuana Manila's E-Services Building will be the first call center site in Manila with an entire floor each of the clerk retail and leisure amenities that complement the industry's demanding work environment.

The shops at Cebuana will offer shopping, dining and leisure options.

The PICK Manila, a part of several new ultramodern concepts of Alveo Land, It will feature a mix of classic Filipino eateries and specialties, food desserts, pastries and coffee shops and restaurants such as Gyu-Kaku from Japan, Fire Food, Japan and Spain.

It will have a wide range of organic products such as fresh vegetables, virgin coconut oil, and the organic Robinsons Supermarket line that will offer fresh produce such as fruits, vegetables, fish and seafood.

SHOWCASE of diverse collection of eclectic home décor, antiques, clothing and jewelry

2bU LIFESTYLE
Editor Thelma Sioson San Juan Subsection Editor Pam Pasion

# Bring it on!

## Cheerleaders are athletes in their own right

**Text and photos by Rob L. Navarro**

IF THE CHEERING COMPETITION IS A basketball game, it would be equivalent to the last two minutes with your team's score tied with the opponent's. There's no room for mistakes. Every single move is crucial, every second a chance to make a stellar stunt. A simple blunder could blow the shot at the grand prize.

It's true that the essence of cheerleading is to encourage the audience to participate in the game through, well, cheering. At best, they are the substitute during halftimes of basketball games.

But these cheerleaders are athletes in their own right. It takes their months of practice to perfect pyramids, tosses and tumbling passes for a five-minutes performance. They risk incurring injuries and the mockery of the fans from the opposing side.

Most of all, they have to make their jobs look easy. They have to show off their toothy smiles, even with twisted ankles or when their score is down by 20 points.

Next week, the cheerleaders are taking center stage in the upcoming University athletic Association of the Philippines cheering competition. Eight teams will carry their school colors on their shoulders. The 71st season UAAP cheering competition is on Sept. 7, 2 p.m., Araneta Coliseum. Bring it on!

### UP PEP SQUAD

**ANGEL Sison and Brad Dantis**

As the reigning and defending champions, they are the team to beat.

This is a team with members who don't limit themselves to UAAP. Several of them represented our country alongside other cheerleaders from different schools, including ADMU, in a cheerleading competition held in Japan.

The squad says this is the year it will take cheerdancing towards a new direction. The members are super-excited to perform a one-of-a-kind routine, which they've been practicing for all year round.

They say it's their passion, faith and love for what they are doing that has helped them and their allies and that have made them a consistent contender. But besides dancing, bonding and training together, they say they are a family that sticks with each other and covers each other's backs all the way.

The UP Pep Squad will be fighting like crazy to win this year's competition, and the next, and the next, and the next...

**Coach:** Lorenz "Lalo" Pormon
**Captains:** Angel Sison, Brad Dantis
**Shoutout:** Thank you for the support and faith you continue to give us. We won't be UP Pep if not for you. UP Fight!

# Bring it on!

From page 11

## FEU CHEERING SQUAD

This is a team that understands that performance is not centered overnight. They started to work on their routine as early as April. In fact, this is the only group that has completed the whole routine a month before the competition.

The head coach allowed the squad to have more time to perfect and double-check every single movement, until it became second nature to them. They know they have to perform their usual moves-sweetness, since having 17 routines in the bowl is always not an excuse.

To some individuals it is impossible. Everything about them is team effort. This dancers can take some bad rap all the credit for consistently being been part of the top three UAAP squads all these years. They have the Green Glaze who beats the drums for them whenever they need it, and the dancers who had the cheering on the sidelines with their golden tassels and their own synchronized hand movements.

The cute face champs are determined to be this year's best. They feel that the hero would also welcome the change.

**Coach:** Jacqueline Andoy
**Captain:** Jim Erik Reyes
**Standout:** Watch out for this dancing Tamaraws and her new cuuute!

JOH Erik Reyes and Shandra Mae Bermejo

## UST SALINGDAWA DANCE TROUPE

SKY Adia/TETA and Marvin Wyman

With eight titles under their belt, they have created quite a record in cheerdancing history. They were gunning for a record victory last year when a mere 3.48-tenths shattered their dreams.

A few days after that, they were rocked with a controversial photo that circulated over Facebook. The issue was quickly addressed within the community. The guilty parties were reprimanded and proper action was taken. After that, the remaining members were given silent victory to keep their silence despite all the angry mobs that flooded their referees.

The one thing that buoyed the group during their lowest point was the love and respect their fellow Tigers have for them. They are thankful for their support, some fans even be as pinning T-shirts of the team.

Although taking was a t they had to re-learn, it also motivated to work harder. assure that the slightest m moment during hall time a passion futures. Now not they feel that all eyes are

They know that the fans tion increases each year w supply keep getting better says they are not expecting but will accept whatever

**Adviser:** Edna Sanchez
**Choreographer:** Ryan
**President:** Marvin Wya
**Standout:** To all the Tig we'll do our best for you!

## ATENEO BLUE BABBLE BATTALION (BBB)

This squad has been consistently performing at its best form, only to fall short on a place in the top three. The members are tired of "almost made it" moments and are aiming for a win. They say this is the year they will go all out for it. They will steer clear of the safe routines they're so accustomed to and take on more risky stunts.

They are also working as hard to win the hearts of the Ateneo community. Though the numbers of their supporters grow each year, they still feel that their efforts are underappreciated. They are hoping that their schoolmates would support not only the basketball team but other athletes, including them, as well.

**Coach:** Randall San Gregorio

**Captains:** Mary Immanuel Therese Dizon, Jan Pauline San Juan, Jose Antonio Cuneo

**Message board:** Please support us because whenever our backs're down and out, we're there for you in the form of cheering. Just watch us and we're sure we can give you a good show. We are doing this for you and God. For the athletes of Team Ateneo, you know the difference in having someone to watch and cheer for you!

**Bb other teams:** We hope for a healthy competition with no injuries. We want to win where our opponents are at their peak. We want to win because we're the best and not because others got injured.

MARY Dizon, Jose A and Jan Pauline San J

## OLSU ANIMO SQUAD

This is a new squad—a team created solely for the purpose of redeeming last year's horrendous disaster. The members were recruited from two existing dance groups: 4-Le Salle. Only six remain from the original pep squad.

They have never performed in a UAAP ball dance. The group is now called White Jackets; the pep squad you saw The whole season was the black jackets.

The members say they want to be ready before others get to judge them. They're already starting from scratch. They have to learn how to lift, toss and perform gymnastic skills, since most members' backgrounds is in dance. Their biggest critics are members of the school administration who closely monitor their progress the rough a weekly performances.

A scene during a recent practice session, perhaps, best describes this squad. One of the floors got crappy while practicing. She was wincing in pain and had to stop for a minute. But against the advice of her classmates, she went back to dance her part before the routine was over.

They lack experience and exposure, but this new team has plenty of heart.

**Coach:** Pilot Kristo-A.
**Captain:** Tobi Martinez
**Standout:** This is not just for us but for Ore La Salle!

TOTE Martinez and Ainel Bautista

# Satire and song

By Bianca Cerezo
CSI Correspondent
Photos by JP Cida

IT'S A RAINY WEEKDAY night, but on the UP Ateneo Hill rooftop, rehearsals are in full swing. A band of jeepney drivers in full attire and bangles frantically break ranges on their cheeks and pin flowers on their hair. Just a few meters away, a group of neophytes dressed as Greek gods and other strange characters paint props with cans of white paint.

This is the world of the UP Samahan Ng Mga Magarral Sa Komunikasyon, simply known as Samaskom. Based in the College of Mass Communication, Samaskom is one of the college's most popular organizations and counts prominent people in show biz as some of its

THIRD YEAR'S Live AIDS promises plenty of song and dance numbers.

A SCENE from a previous Live AIDS performance

## UP Samaskom's Live AIDS show packs SRO crowds

COSTUME-CLAD applicants are a common sight in UP.

alumni. Comedian Ghelli Sanchez and Rated sr Rappler **Rey Rondola**, **Jerbie Llanera** as Ate Glow—Presidente Mampogal-Arroyo's press liaisons impersonator.

"Live AIDS is a great training ground for future communicators," Lorenzo says. "The members write, produce and organize the event, which is basically what they will be doing when they graduate and move on to real jobs."

19-year-old Kia de Leon, a film student and three-year veteran of Samaskom, agrees. "In preparing for Live AIDS, we covey all sorts. We conceptualize the show, write scripts, and rehearse endlessly—it's similar to what I'll be doing after school, so this is a great opportunity to get experience."

But make no mistake. Putting up a show of this scale is no menial task. Kimpher Kiefer de Guzman, a fourth year journalism student who joined the org just a couple of months ago, says that rehearsals can often stretch up to midnight, eating into time allotted for school.

"We just have to manage our time better," De Guzman says, shrugging. "I learned how to prioritize and time-manage in the org. If applying to the org was hard, being a member is even harder."

By that, De Guzman was referring to Samaskom's audition application process, which entails a couple of weeks of intense preparation prior to becoming a member. Applicants

GETTING ready for rehearsals

## ADAMSON PEP SQUAD

They will go to great lengths to perform their stunts. They made jaws drop in 2008 when they first performed the "carousel" toss. There's a big chance they'll wow the audience the same way this year. "And so, if they complain that routine is based on the crowd-favorites.

That works before the big day, and they are still trying to fine-tune and fix a three-level pyramid. The squad has started late because they finished their lineup of dancers only a month ago. The members are soaking up for hard times by doing their hours of training. "They are confident they will make it.

The squad says that having their cheering routine back has allowed them to focus on their training instead of wondering how to stay and still have ideas and concepts. "Since we also had last year that three experienced members of the squad to learn some gymnastic skills. Their team used to get by with only a few members doing the tumbling pass.

This is one team we're proud of and look out for, especially with their team cheering efforts. It's very possible for them to reclaim a spot in the top three.

**Coaches:** Rommel Tiba, Mark Donelle Rafanel

**Captains:** Jizzel Mare Regala, Patrick Fernandez

**Standout:** This is our team!

## LE Pep Squad

Size of the biggest challenges for this squad is unloading to the team rules of competition. Whereby found out that this year will have more traditional cheerleading and less dancing. they had to add these focus to gymnastic skills.

It's around like going back to zero, because not all of these teams have to do that to the passes at the beginning of the year. Now, almost everybody can do it. The boys are also now willing to join in the dance routines to keep things more interesting.

**PATRICIA Bianca L. Martin and Leigh E.D. Granancio**

Two weeks before the competition, this squad is still losing to complete its routine. But the story looks as that the UE PEP Squad for town will stand their footing over the head. The members and hope that no slips can would happen to them before the competition. because two members have already been declared ineligible. Hayley said that, they're making a lofty promise to top three.

**Adviser:** Paolo Mon

**Acting coaches:** Arbi Gabriel, Jason Santos

**Captains:** Patricia Bianca J. Martin

**Standout:** Be faith cause what happen. Whyon was to perform for our schoolmates for people who believe that we are a team they can be proud of.

## NU PEP SQUAD

LUISA Tamara and Jhaylene Quidlan

One of the biggest changes in this squad is its attitude. Icons in the days when they were not tired and defeated to competition said "Liberty" #1 even in practices. This year the members look more confident, less unsure of self.

It could be because they have to answer complete line-up; only one of their old faces does not participate this season. Their line-up was crushed last season when a new rule that prohibited high school students in the competition was imposed. Seven of their starters were automatically disqualified.

They have two new coaches and an adviser that help invest in their training and routines. This has resulted in better and more confident routines. Lastly, they're getting more support from the school's administration this year. They feel more cared for and important to the school.

If they were able to perform until post-basketball last year, who knows what the revitalized NU Pep Squad can come up with this year?

**Adviser:** Mayi Sarmiento

**Coaches:** Mikay Bolocino, Leslie Gaviola

**Captains:** Luisa Santos, Jhaylene Quidlan

**Standout:** As with everyone would go out and watch as perform. Our goal is to make everybody included. Never boss other schools. Always our performances. Our story here goals is to become the most supported team. The long-term goal, of course, is to win a championship.

With new courses for professional and recreational cooks

## Global Culinary Academy opens new branch in Alabang

with uploads—and it's just a general rehearsal. Instead of shedding tea this presence of initial strangers. The members seem to be fearless and seems their limits without feeling.

"Live AIDS is proof that there is an endless pool of talent, ready to inspire the world," says Lorenzo. And we can't wait to see that.

Live AIDS 24 runs at the UP Diliman Dulaang Abiliao tonight and Sept. 12 at 7 p.m. and Sept. 13 at 2 p.m. For inquiries, contact 0906-3761332.

*E-mail the author at bianca-consunji@yahoo.com*

## Chili's raises 50k for Red Cross

KARIMADON

Congratulations!
Ms. Marian Rivera
FOR A VERY SUCCESSFUL CONCERT
PRIMETIME TELECAST AUG. 31, SNBO GMA7

# Hoops and dreams

## Haltama with Team RP Youth

By James Gabrillo
Photographs by Regine David
Special thanks to Darren Chang

PSYCHED IS ONE WORD that best describes these young ballers.

And who can blame them? All 14 guys who make up the Nokia RP-Youth Team are in Tokyo, Japan, for the Asian Youth Championships. It's their reward for winning the Nokia Junior Men's basketball tournament held recently in Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia.

The team, coached by multi-titled Far Eastern Univ Archers' Franz Pumaren, is composed of the country's most talented players. They came from collegiate ranks and were plucked from different regions, clusters from the National Basketball Training Center headed by former Purefoods coach Eric Altamirano.

Synergy is one word that any group has to possess if they are to succeed, doesn't it, Coach Frank Golla, a freshman in history and the team's El Capitan, says. "Our coming from different schools and backgrounds never become an issue. Whether you came from Manila or from the province, it didn't matter. We immediately forged a brotherhood."

Nokia Philippines, together with major distributor Tec Corporation, has partnered with the Samahang Basketbol ng Pilipinas (Basketball Association of the Philippines (SBP) for the three-year, P70-million program of the Philippine Junior Men's basketball team. The organizers sent the entire squad to the Grassroots Impact Basketball Training Center to prepare—the same training center of NBA superstars as well as the SBP Men's Olympic basketball team.

"Nokia does not usually sponsor sports, but when this project was presented to us, we saw several reasons to say yes," says William Stoakley-Pryce, Country Manager of Nokia Philippines. "In this project, you have different people coming together to achieve a common goal, now that doesn't bring success or recognition to just one individual but to a country."

Should the Nokia Filipinos Youth team finish decently in the tough Asian memory, they'll get a chance to participate in the Youth Olympic Games in Singapore in 2010. There's pressure on them to say, as the last time the country made it to the Y Olympics was in 1972.

But the guys are really more excited than worried. In the end, the young players say it's about validating pride and integrity on and off the court.

"On the court, it's easy, we're all competitors," says Ranz Mocon, a senior high schooler who plays guard for the team. "And when we're not on court, we try to apply what we learn. You know, to be the best we can be."

# LIFESTYLE

# Hot finds!

Hate blending in? This week's hot finds will make you stand out in your school crowd

## Sugar for your head

Give your boring old earphones a rest and pick up some Skullcandy

by Pam Pastor

WHEN BEEGIRL OF SAN Francisco, California, is in the mood for some music, she slips on her Skullcandy Ti Chick Xtreme Headphones. Her headphones, which are huge, pink and furry, are a far cry from your boring old earphones. They are adorable, yes, but Beegirl insists that's not the only attraction. She wrote online, "These puppies are functional as well as cute."

They are functional—and in some cases, cuddly as.

Skullcandy, a brand that has already gained a cult following in the United States and other parts of the world, hit the country's shores earlier this year.

### Power, personality, attitude

Although Skullcandy offers apparel as well (the t-shirts are pretty cool), a huge chunk of its product lineup is devoted to earphones and headphones that pack a lot of power, personality and attitude.

And the good news? With the wide range of products, there's bound to be a set of headphones or earphones to suit your needs, tastes and budget.

Beegirl's choice, the Titanium, costs P4,500 and comes in a variety of other colors, not just furry pink. There's white and gold, furry white, pink and white, gold and black, gold camo, green and yellow and black. This DJ-style headset is equipped with 40mm emedium drivers to give you fan high-end response.

### Big seller

The current big seller in the country is Hesh2, and it's no big surprise. For P2,500, you get stereo headphones that are packed with 50mm power. According to Skullcandyicons, "This joint roars like a sex meteor whopping Batman's ass. Too-more if outlawed upon you by someone else with bad taste in music." It doesn't hurt that they come in cool designer cos, including red and black with zebra print.

If you like bass, pick up the Skullcrusher for P3,500. These headphones come equipped with stereo speakers plus mini-subwoofers to carry out according to Skullcandyicons, "Those pesky voices in your head will never know what hit 'em!"

Skullcandy G.I. is a music fan's dream come true. Sold for P2,500, it comes with interchangeable ear pads, a travel bag and a home stereo adapter. It comes in fun prints and colors includ-

CHOOSE your Skullcandy

Our Relaxing Weekend Package rates start from only P3,500++ for an overnight stay in a deluxe room, inclusive of buffet breakfast for 2 persons, and a 15% discount at Fab Restaurant.

One Bedroom Suite P 5,000++
Two Bedroom Suite P 7,500++

To book your Relaxing Weekend Package, call 633.7111.

THESE headphones pack a lot of punch

# Sugar for your head

Headphone DJ

Big name steal is

### A dozen colors

Lowriders are another big Skullcandy hit. Available in over a dozen colors, these headphones are sold for P2,000 each. Ultra portable and conspicuously foldable, these headphones are equipped with 40mm Power Drivers, 95 Degree swivel DJ Style speakers and come with a travel pouch and 6.3mm stereo adapter.

Check out Kate no. headsets that are so light they weigh less than 45 grams. You can switch colors with the hoop-up set which comes with each package. P995 each, the headsets come in white and blue, white and pink and black.

Skullcandy's Mare Frank Morales headphones are extra special. Named after a world renowned Pro Snowboarder, this 80-style headset comes with a built-in MP3 player.

To block out the sound of the outside world, Skullcandy also has noise-cancelling headphones (P5,000).

### More goodies

If headphones aren't your thing, Skullcandy has a lot of different earphones to offer as well. There's the Full Jacket which comes in a metal alloy casing, P3,000; the Smokin' Buds, P995, and Link which is capable of dual connection for simultaneous use with your mobile phone and music player, P2,000.

You may also want to try Chops—soft couch upon earcups which are sold for P995. They come in a variety of colors as well.

As if the headphones and earphones aren't enough to make you drool, Skullcandy also offers other goodies for music aficionados.

There's the Skullcandy Link Pack which comes with a built-in MP3 player, amplifier, speaker and controls. The bag, which comes in two sizes and four colors, costs P7,500. There's even a model with a hydropack, perfect for hiking enthusiasts.

Another thing to check out is the MacGyver MP3 watch, which has a 1 gigabyte memory and is equipped with a 5-mode audio equalizer, a 1.8 stereo sound, a shuffle play feature, voice recorder and USB cable—all for P6,000.

Skullcandy is a favorite of headgear enthusiasts, but don't worry, brands aren't a requirement. Visit Rapido Ltd and get a dozen of Skullcandy.

Rapido Ltd., which is open from 10a.m. to 6:30 p.m. from Mondays to Saturdays and 1 p.m. to 5 p.m. on Sundays, is located at Unit 3 and 4 La Fuerza Plaza Don Chino Roces Ave., Makati. For inquiries, call 8845077 or 8849402. Skullcandy is available in R.O.X. in Rustan's High Street, SM North Edsa, SM Megamall, SM Mall of Asia, Glorietta 1 and Ayala.

CHOPS, bone, Lowriders, Skullcrushers—which headphones are right for you?

# In the bag

By Pam Pastor

ADMIT IT. WHEN YOU'RE in school, you don't want to see anyone with the same school bag. This is the campus equivalent of running into someone wearing the same dress or a party.

When you are stuck wearing a uniform day after day after day, one way to express yourself is with the bag you carry. How can you stand out if you're carrying the same bag as everyone else?

Bespack has the answer.

Frustrated by the fact that Jansport's artists' series isn't available in bags, Jansport brand manager Clyde Chua thought of recruiting up local artists to spe Bespack's bags as a canvas for their art.

"I thought that our artists can do even better," she said.

The store thus introduced Graphic Remix, a line of Jansport, Trigger and Timbuk2 bags that were hand-painted by the country's up-and-coming artists. While last year's promotions were mostly in-store, this year, it has upped the ante with a mall tour and a related tour starting in De La Salle University.

At the show, Bespack didn't just exhibit the artists' unique creations. It also gave people the chance to make a statement with their bags by having them sprayed. There were templates they could choose from, but they were also allowed to come up with designs that fit their personalities perfectly.

The feedback has been excellent. "There were even students who cut class just to buy bags," Clyde said.

"People love bag customization because they like being different," said Johnnie Villaflor, Marketing Communications Officer for Bespack.

Each hand-painted bag is unique. "You get a different set of bags at every Bespack branch," Johnnie said.

Jansport has always been an advocate of art, creativity and individuality, Johnnie said. It believes in giving people the chance to be different.

"This is why we bring in the bags in so many different colors and prints. Right now we have over 20 prints. If people want to make their bags more unique, they can have them airbrushed. And if they want to get their hands on one-of-a-kind pieces, they can choose from Graphic Remix creations," she said.

Clyde and Johnnie would also like to encourage people to get creative with their own bags. "They can paint and embellish the bags themselves. We have over 10 solid colors to choose from."

Bespack has a lot of great things in store for long time in the future. Not only will the Graphic Remix campaign include more brands soon. The store is also opening its flagship shop in Greenbelt 5 in the last quarter of this year.

The store will be huge, with even more room for creativity.

For more information, visit www.bespack.ph and yourbackbone.multiply.com. Bespack branches are located at Robinsons Galleria, Robinsons Place Manila, SM Southmall, SM The Block, SM City Bacoor, Ayala Center Cebu, SM City Cagayan de Oro and SM City Pampanga.

## Design your own bag

### Arm yourself with these tips

1. "Use your design to express yourself," said Bespack Marketing Communications Officer Johnnie Villaflor.

2. "Let your interests rule. Some people like hearts, some people like skulls," said Jansport Brand Manager Clyde Chua.

3. Choose your materials wisely. Make sure your paint will survive rain and laundry sessions. You don't want your design to fade away into a complete mess if you get caught in the rain.

4. Don't stop at just paint. Embellish your bag with buttons, found objects and such. Your creativity is your only limit.

5. Allow yourself to let inspiration for things that you love—TV shows, animation, even your favorite songs.

HAND-PAINTED, all sprayed, priced—take your pick

LINK bag

THERM'S slim Shuttcondo Link Pack which comes with a built-in MP3 player, amplifier, speaker and controls.

Canyon Ranch residents to enjoy faster travel, more quality time with family.

Did you know that the average Filipino will spend six years of his life in traffic? This is especially true for urban professionals who live in the suburbs and experience the daily ordeal of long commutes to the city.

But traffic is expected to ease out soon after the government finishes most of its road repairs and expansion projects, especially in the CALABARZON area (or the provinces of Cavite, Laguna, Batangas, Rizal and Quezon) the center of rapid industrialization and property boom.

The expansion of major road links to the south is part of the government's initiative to finish 21 priority projects across various key parts of the country in 2010.

### Major road projects

In the CALABARZON or Region IV-A, the much-anticipated road improvements include the expansion of the Manila-Cavite Toll Expressway or the Coastal Road-a P6.283-billion project that will extend Coastal Road from Zapote in Alabang to Kawit in Cavite. There is also the P3.1-billion Metro Manila Skyway Extension project from Buendia to Alabang.

Another road development project is the P8.810-billion Southern Luzon Expressway (SLEX) Extension Project that will extend SLEX to the Southern Tagalog Arterial Road (STAR) expressway in Batangas.

The rehabilitation, upgrading, and reinforcing of the access Alabang viaduct will not only decongest the city but also give commuters safer and more convenient trips to and from Cavite.

### Southern comfort

The travel conveniences these road developments will bring make the south one of the most ideal residential locations for thousands of Filipino families that are realizing the joys and benefits of suburban living.

Canyon Ranch, one of the fastest-selling residential communities in the south, is in fact selling just its few remaining homes this year. The 17-hectare master-planned development located within the San Lazaro Leisure Park in Carmona, Cavite offers a wide array of living options patterned after the most vibrant cities in California-Alhambra, Berkeley, Calistoga, Delano, Fremont, Irvine, Malibu, Napa Valley and Stockton.

The development also features The Village Corner, a 30-outlet commercial and retail development that will be open to homeowners and San Lazaro Leisure Park visitors.

"With its exceptional terrain, cool climate and idyllic location, Canyon Ranch in Carmona, Cavite offers the best value for money to those who aspire for an exceptional suburban lifestyle with modern conveniences. And soon with less travel time to and from the metropolis, families will enjoy more quality time," said Marco R. Antonio, managing director of Century Communities, which spearheads the horizontal project in partnership with the Manila Jockey Club, Inc.

Canyon Ranch is only 25 minutes away from Makati, 10 minutes from Alabang and 5 minutes from the Carmona exit of South Luzon Expressway. Visit www.canyonranch.com.ph or call (02) 810-9925, 892-6993-7000 and (0915)-7808000.

With the south going more and more accessible from the city, southern dwellers are in for the best of both the idyllic suburban life and urban conveniences at Canyon Ranch.

# Road projects revitalize the south

The lavish and welcoming pool area at canyon Ranch's Alhambra home

With less travel time brought by road improvement projects in the south, persons will get to devote more quality time with their family.

# Race to Singapore

The 2008 Formula 1™ SingTel Singapore Grand Prix races into the annals of history this September with the world's first Formula One™ night race debuting on Asia's first street circuit. The roar of Formula One™ engines is set to reverberate through the streets of Singapore's Marina Bay when the world's inaugural Formula One™ night race flags off this 28 September, set against the city's distinctive skyline and characteristic landmarks, promising even more exciting thrills and spills for race enthusiasts. Revving up the excitement alongside this historic motorsports event is the Singapore GP Season. To be held over these weekends from 20 September to 5 October, the Season will showcase top-notch lifestyle events and festivities as well as shopping and dining promotions.

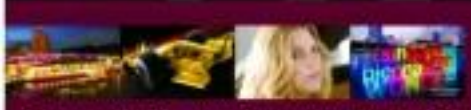
Over at the ultra exclusive Amber Lounge, the flow of champagne never stops. Described by Michael Schumacher as "the only place to celebrate after a Grand Prix", Amber Lounge descends onto Singapore from 27 to 28 September and is a stunning party experience set to be a veritable magnet for Formula One™ race drivers, international models and celebrities from television, fashion, music and sport.

Mark your calendars for other world-class Season highlights like the Singapore Biennale 2008 from 11 September to 16 November showcasing cutting-edge art installations, and the Bulgari Watch Exhibition 2008 at Paragon from 18 to 28 September which offers connoisseurs and collectors a showcase of exclusive limited edition timepieces specially created for the occasion, never before seen in Southeast Asia.

Topping off this dazzling race experience is a host of new must-visit experiences that Singapore offers - from the newly-opened Singapore Flyer, the world's highest giant observation wheel; the Peranakan Museum showcasing the unique Straits Chinese heritage; to soothing wellness therapies and exclusive premium offerings at The St Regis Singapore and the up it has simply never been a better time to visit Singapore for memorable and unique personal experiences.

Image courtesy of the Hefner Collection

Log on to visitsingapore.com/sg-season for more information on the Singapore GP Season



Get your adrenaline pumping as Singapore Grand Prix fever hits **Bonifacio High Street!**

Shop and dine at any of our partner establishments for a chance to win a trip to Singapore and other premium prizes. Get a raffle coupon for every P2,500 spent from August 30 - September 30, 2008. Race to the activity area for a special Singapore Grand Prix Season Preview on August 30-31, 2008!

**SCHEDULE:**

**Exhibit & Motorshow**
Venue: Activity Area (in front of R.O.X. store) 8th Bonifacio High Street
Date: August 30 & 31, 2008
Time: 11:00am to 9:00pm

**Mini Race**
Venue: R.O.X. store 8th Bonifacio High Street
Date: August 30 & 31, 2008
Time: 1:00pm to 9:00pm

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# The ultraelectromagnetic dash for an Eheads ticket

By Irene C. Perez

## Cheers to Ely Buendia, Raimund Marasigan, Buddy Zabala and Marcus Adoro—our '90s music heroes

WHAT STARTED OUT AS a rumor turned out to be true. And to call this whole Eraserheads reunion gig solid is a big, fat understatement. It's an ultraelectromagnetic circus.

"Ito na talaga. The Reunion" had been actually awaited for years. Since the band announced again, from the dark in the stellar event, fence the boys to the fences. The greatest band of the '90s to step up the local music scene is out to prove that this isn't just their reunion, but reunion well.

Closure to Ely Buendia, Raimund Marasigan, Buddy Zabala and Marcus Adoro—our '90s music heroes.

Aug. 4

THE MUCH-AWAITED reunion gig happens tonight, finally. EDDIE COSTE

Confirmed! The one-night-only Eraserheads reunion gig would be held Aug. 30 on Headliner Global City's open grounds (the stellar fans nicknamed the CCP complex). An official statement from the promoter was posted on the Event book stalling for, which quickly stands to very thought blogs, band e-groups, text messages. The gig was practically selling itself and needed very little to no marketing.

The clincher it was for but, strictly by invitation and open only to members of legal age. Chief promoter Philip Morris Philippines Manufacturing Inc. (PMFMI), makers of Marlboro, said, "The Eraserheads performance is not a form of sponsorship, which is not allowed by the law. PMFMI's participation in the event is not as sponsors but as a promoter."

TWO ACTS: 14

## Race the route

SO YOU'RE A BARKADA OF F1 FANATICS, and you've been obsessively following the Singapore Grand Prix. While it's near impossible to fly to Singapore in time for the race, with flights and hotels booked solid, you can still wing your way to the land of the Merlion. Here's how:

**F1 fans can score a free trip to Singapore**

1. Super readers 18 years and above can join. All you need is a valid passport that will expire on Sept. 30, 2009 onwards.

2. From Aug. 30 to Sept. 27, three trivia questions about F1 and the

BACK 11

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# Where to Stop Where to Go

Where to Stop Where to Go

Financial Hotel Directory

## Mandarin Oriental's Mid-Autumn Moon Celebration

CELEBRATE THE MID-AUTUMN Moon season with food and frolic, pageantry and prizes at Mandarin Oriental, Manila's Moung Yeut nights, when it welcomes the season on Sept. 13 to 15 on Asiapit (moon dance), a fun moon viewing game, a raffle of major prizes, musical entertainment and a sumptuous buffet differentiate this mid-autumn moon celebration that is perfect for family reunions.

Mandarin Oriental's opening celebrations will be spearheaded by international pronouncer Joseph Chan at the Mandarin Oriental Ballroom, with an auspicious pond dress ritual to assure positive chi energy and a colorful lantern lighting ceremony.

An innovation and an exciting new feature of this year's celebration is the Mid-Autumn Festival Moon Cake Game, a popular custom among Filipino Chinese, the Pua Tiong Guan. Each table will be provided with a set of six dice and the requisite set of bragging rights to others for that game that is designed for any number of players. A musical performance will also be featured prior to a buffet dinner of Tin Hau specialties. Attractive prizes await lucky raffle winners in this exciting evening.

Occurring on the 15th day of the eight month of the Chinese lunar calendar when the moon is at its brightest, the Mid-Autumn Moon Festival has become an occasion for family reunions all over the world, which like the ubiquitous moon cakes that abound during the season, symbolizes family solidity and union.

Moung Yeut tickets are available at P1,288 +++ inclusive of sumptuous Chinese buffet, the pre-dinner show and overseeing a special Mid-Autumn giveaway and the traditional dice game Pua Tiong Guan.

Regular hotel guests receive with a variety of delectable flavors perfect for gift-giving are also available at Tin Hau, Mandarin Deli, lobby booth and at the Café and Deli at Gateway Mall until Sept. 15.

For details, call 750-8888 extension 2412/2424 (Tin Hau) extension 2415 (Mandarin Deli) extension 2631 (lobby booth) and 0915-3101 (the Café and Deli at Gateway Mall).

## *Wine all you can at Café Astoria*

YOU AND YOUR FRIENDS CAN SPEND your night at Café Astoria for an intimate get together. Party the night away in a Wine All You Can extravaganza for only P500++ per person. Wine buffet comes with mouth-watering "tapas" selections. Available every Wednesdays, Thursdays and Fridays for the whole month of September. Café Astoria is open from 8 a.m. to 12 p.m. for breakfast, lunch and dinner.

For reservations please call 6871111 or visit www.astoriaplaza.com. Astoria Plaza is located at #15 J. Escriva Drive, Ortigas Business District, Pasig City.

Astoria Plaza is managed with distinction by Genesis Hotels and Resorts Corp.

### ENJOY A COMFORTABLE RAINY DAY AT COURTYARD INN SUBIC BAY

"Don't let the rainy gray mornspells get you down! Find raging delights in the warm, soothing comforts at Courtyard Inn..." Until the 30th of September, Courtyard Inn offers "Rainy Day Promo". For P1,388++ award of an overnight stay in a Deluxe room in a single or double occupancy; breakfast inclusive at Area1 Restaurant...free wireless internet access...free and secured parking space. Hotel guests shall also enjoy discounts at Metroture Joggers, Inc.'s Bear's leading water sports activity shop. For more details regarding Courtyard Inn's Rainy Days Promo, call (047)252-2345 or e-mail at courtyard@subicinn.com or log on to www.courtyardinnsubic.com.

## Sofitel spreads love around through Virlanie

A LIBRARY FOR EVERY VIRLANIE House is what the Sofitel Philippine Plaza built for the 13 books of Virlanie Foundation in Barangay Tinghaligan, Makati. The hotel donated books and educational games that are age-appropriate for the various lodging places in cooperation with the National Book Store Foundation.

The library and books donation was made possible through a White Elephant auction by the Sofitel employees who raised around P200,000. National Book Store Foundation for almost doubled the Sofitel purchase and enabled the creation of well-stocked libraries for the many grassroots and relocation of the wards.

The donation took place on a Saturday when members of the Sofitel's Social and Welfare Committee, the hotel officers and representatives of National Book Store Foundation visited the various homes, turned over the libraries and played with the children over refreshments.

Created in 1992 by Dominique Loiseau in partnership with the Ignacio, the Foundation is the largest private non-government childcare institution in the Philippines providing for disadvantaged children and mothers.

With over 120 Filipino staff and volunteers, the community of 12 homes provides food, education and love to more children. Apart from these, NFI extends developmental services to children for them to become self-reliant, productive individuals with programs such as Outreach, Medical, Learning Centers and Mentally Retardation.

Already in progress during the recent visit and show-giving as the Manor Jobs Care Center of the Virlanie Foundation were Pepe Abes, NFI director - Sofitel; Rose Libongco, director of sales and marketing - Sofitel; Benedicta Bisnil, project coordinator of Metro Pole Care Center - Virlanie; Marie Antoinette Pamintuan, president of National Bookstore Foundation Inc; and Bernd Schneider, general manager - Sofitel.

## New Horizon Hotel school partnership

WITH 3.5 MILLION (!) VISITORS IN 2007, PHILIPPINES' tourism industry is booming. The development of new industries and companies also increases the hotel demand. One of the direct consequences of this higher interest is the construction of new hotels and resorts to welcome the new guests. But hotels and resorts are useless without professional employees. Since the shortage of manpower, 2 years ago, New Horizon Hotel has established strong relations with culinary schools and Hotel Restaurant and Management schools (HRM). They welcome on a regular basis students from University of Makati, San Sebastian College, Our Lady of Fatima College and also St. Scholastica College for a one-week training period of 3 months. During the time, the students have the chance to practice all departments, F&B, Front Office, Housekeeping and Administration, to improve their skills with a professional experience. Interested in New Horizon hotel during 2 months minimum, each student has the possibility to undergoing the nominees and pleasures of the profession. "New Horizon Hotel forms the inner spirit in graduated students who want to start their career with them. New Horizon Hotel Mr. Celeste Lopez De Vera maintains excellent relations with Culinary and HRM School who educate and train their future employees. For more information, contact 522-3021, e-mail newhorizonhotel@gmail.com or visit www.newhorizonmanila.com.

## Race the route

Pinoy page A1

Singapore Grand Prix Season will be published each week in the pages of Super. This week's questions are:

a) When will the Singapore Grand Prix Season begin and end?

b) What are the exact race days of the 2008 F1 SingTel Singapore Grand Prix race?

c) Name the venue of the 2008 F1 SingTel Singapore Grand Prix race?

3. E-mail your answers along with your complete name, address and contact numbers to singaporegpty@aol.com. All entries with the correct answers will automatically qualify for the Super Challenge.

4. On Sept. 27, we'll announce the names of the participants who qualify for the Super Challenge. Qualified participants will be asked to submit a short essay on the Grand Challenge question, "What makes Singapore a perfect F1 destination?" But don't go writing those essays yet, we'll get in touch with you first if you qualify!

5. The winner will get two round trip tickets to Singapore and a 4D/3N hotel accommodation for two. Prizes are valid from Nov. 1, 2008 to March 31, 2009, subject to flight and hotel availability. Prizes are transferable but non-convertible to cash.

Five other entries will win Singapore Tourism Board gift packs.

For more info, go to www.visitsingapore.com.

# Catch the Singapore Grand Prix Fever

AS SINGAPORE SIZZLES THIS September for the highly anticipated 2008 Formula 1™ Singtel Singapore Grand Prix, the Singapore Tourism Board (Philippines) (STB-P) will mount a spectacular exhibit at the Dusitfarm High Street in Taguig on Aug. 30 and 31 as a simple to the thrilling sights and sounds that await visitors in the Island Lion City.

The exhibit will give visitors a preview of what they can expect from the Singapore Grand Prix (SGP) Season – 16 days of top class events and entertainment that will complement the race.

There will be an awesome display of high performance cars to commemorate Singapore's hosting of the most dramatic races which will take action from Sept. 26 to 28 at the scenic Marina Bay in the very heart of downtown Singapore.

Exhibit visitors and shoppers will also get the chance to win sizzling prizes during the raffle and participate in mini race track games.

Practically its neighbor, the BSA Suites is only a six- to eight-minute walk to Ayala Center - Metro Manila's largest shopping and entertainment center with over 100 premium stores, restaurants and entertainment establishments. No need to leave the corporate world behind while on vacation. BSA Suites Bonifacio rooms are fully equipped to handle your business needs.

Petit Hotel is among the pioneers of the country's serviced apartments industry. Experience the unmatched convenience of modern living in this 24-storey, full-service condominium hotel with a three-star rating. 67 homes will soon(tm) full-service apartments from standard, superior and one-bedroom suites fitted with: complete living, dining, kitchen facilities and elegantly tiled bathrooms with hot and cold water.

Well from Aug. 23 to Sept. 28, this whopping long weekend deal at Quantum's Makati properties comes with a set breakfast for 2, complimentary bottled water upon check in and coffee and tea set-up. The rate is net of taxes and service charge and is good for studio (upon) or up to one bedroom deluxe units. Strictly is applicable for reservations of 3 nights only and reservations will be subject to first night's rate.

For bookings or more information, call Quantum Hotels and Resorts at (632)867 2107 or (632)889 0224, e-mail: info@quantumsuites.com or check the website at www.quantumsuites.com.

# Tours, Leisure & Chow

## Quantum's long weekend madness at Makati

QUANTUM HOTELS AND RESORTS offers one great long weekend madness package for its Makati properties. Stay at the fully furnished apartments of the BSA Towers, the BSA Suites and Petit Mansion on Sunvillas and Sundays for P3,700 per night and get the Monday night for only P100.

Seafood night in the heart of Makati City's commercial and business district, the BSA Tower caters to guests traveling for both business and leisure. BSA Tower's self-contained apartments are furnished with separate living, dining, kitchen, and bedroom areas and elegantly tiled bathrooms with hot and cold water facilities. BSA Tower apartments are also thoughtfully equipped with cable television and SOHO (phone).

**PISTANG PILIPINO**

A Waterfront Hotels and Casinos Appreciation Night for its top corporate and travel accounts was held at Waterfront Manila Pavilion Hotel. Shown are (from left) G-Host Manila department heads Reinardo Echevarria - food and beverage manager, Charles Rillo - head engineering, Mary Ann Guardiano - guest services manager, Jane Garapa Ferrer - revenue manager, Desiree Zafra - sales and marketing manager, Tor Pangandaya - hotel manager, John Lattimo - finance manager and Marvelo Tesalona - executive steward of G-Host Manila.

### Baking class for moms

AS PART OF DUSIT GOURMET'S BAKING CLASS SERIES, Dusit Thani Manila now offers classes for moms every 2nd Friday until Sept. 26 from 3 p.m. to 5 p.m. for only P1,500 net per person per session. Learn how to bake delicious cakes such as: Multiflavor Cake, Banana Cake, Moist Chocolate Cake and delectable pastries like Fruit Tart, Dacco Bar Square, Blancia Bars to name a few. Participating moms will get a chance to savor what they have baked plus a certificate of completion after each session. Pregnant also is invited. For inquiries, please call 897-3333.

### Tony Roma's ribs-seafood-steak

CHRISTENED THE PIONEER OF BABY BACK RIBS, TONY Roma's can now be found all over the world. With more than 200 restaurants in 21 countries, the sensation that Tony started has become a worldwide success story. Using secret recipes and special sauces, the staff from Tony Roma's are committed to providing you the best ribs in each and every of their restaurants. But Tony Roma's story does not end with ribs. Crispy fresh salads, mouthwatering char-grilled steaks, original BBQ chicken, and delicious seafood make up a menu that is sure to please everyone. Tony Roma's is opening 2 branches, at the ground floor of Glorietta 4, Ayala Mall with contacts 757-1805/06 and at the Cacuminos Wing of Alabang Town Center, Muntinlupa City, telnos. 771-1388/771-1788. The head office is at the Basement 1 of Glorietta 4, Ayala Mall, with telnos. 757-1806/07.

## Thunderbird Resorts - Poro Point, always a surprising destination

THUNDERBIRD RESORT - Poro Point, located in San Fernando, La Union, just recently opened its doors to the public offers. It was launched last May of this year. The property boasts of luxurious guest rooms, a par 36 Made golf course called The Cliffs Golf and Beach Club designed by BBG and maintained by Jim Elmo Properties and includes leisure and gaming facilities.

The 39-room hotel currently offers an introductory rate of P5,500 (net) per room night for single or double occupancy, inclusive of breakfast for two at its very own authentic Mediterranean-inspired restaurant, Olivos. Only a 1 hour drive from Baguio City, this new destination in the North provides an excellent getaway for adventure seekers, golf aficionados or travel habitués that are looking for a reprieve from city life and prefer to enjoy the endless panorama of sea and sky.

Thunderbird Resort - Poro Point's main architectural concept design is the Ifugao hut islands of Greece. True to the actual setting in Greece, the property was built on a seaside peninsula that overlooks the China Sea and offers that same magical setting. It is lovely, with uniquely white sand beach and its sexually stimulating ship of a cliff overlooking breathtaking views and dramatic scenery. It has a dramatic beauty that combines the sea and the sky with the manicured green of the golf course. Everything is so serene and calming, wrapped in a majestic splendor that only can appreciate, upon stepping through its open air lobby.

For reservations and inquiries, you may call the Makati Office at 813-3211 888-3100 in La Union at +63(72)888-7777 or e-mail to guestservices@thunderbirdresorts.com.

# The ultraelectromagnetic...

From page E1

OPM2 big rights: "08.30.08" T-shirts from https://ultraelectro.multiply.com

**Aug. 8**

Manic registration followed. Sino...-smoker or non...-signed up on the age restricted website www.multiply.ph.

Frantic comments and blog entries followed. "Nung nasa sa kanina kayo sa MacBonio Lights ng sunray Ave, dapat may t-shirt ako!"

"All of us at home listed on the site, but still haven't heard a thing."

"Bakit walang complimentary pass ang media?"

"May-kakilala ba kayong mananagan ng MacBonio? Bakit parang wala naman."

"The gig will be a Rep, they should have sold tickets."

"I'm a non-smoker, how will I get in?"

"This might be the only benefit I could get from smoking, but where are the tickets?"

Some were lucky enough to be included on the organizers' and Smith VIP lists. The rest of us intently prayed to the rock-and-roll gods. Just imagining hearing the classics from the Hub Boys again was enough to keep us giddy.

**Aug. 23**

A heartbreaking news flash spread around the blogosphere: "The Eraserheads reunion gig is officially canceled."

Frustrated fingers shot up in the air and random curses in all dialects and languages were thrown; it had been dubbed the music event of the year, it's crying out loud! Even those who didn't have tickets were terribly surprised and disappointed.

Apparently the Department of Health did its mandate by citing Republic Act 9211, which bans tobacco companies from promoting anywhere. DOH says, Philip Morris withdrew, and the rest of us would only scream our heads off.

**Aug. 24**

A stunning turnaround. The gig is pushing through!

Rumored personality reads the announcement on the Facebook fanpage page's a week before the big day. Yes, he said, it is going to happen.

"After much ado, the Eraserheads concert is most definitely pushing through. Philip Morris and its friends have pulled out of the reunion... Unfortunately it's no longer free. All the long-winded registration procedures at the Mall-brand Red Station are no more said. The good news is, the age limit is now 12 years old (for safety reasons) and tickets will be sold, so you don't have to wait for confirmation... The official announcement and ticketing details will come out in major newspapers and on radio on Tuesday... By the way, I just got home from the last rehearsal. The band is rocking. We will see you all on the 30th. -Buyan +63."

Mga hyperventilation, I tell you. The most important question: "Where can we score tickets?"

**Aug. 25**

Monday morning. We in the bayanan eagerly waited to intercept the advertisement that would come on Monday. We checked the advertising department for any updates, we watched out for radio plugs, we messaged anyone who had the slightest connection with the Hizon's. Nothing.

**Aug. 26**

Still no news by Tuesday afternoon. Panic mode.

Skeptics were saying it was all hell and that no concert was going to happen, just like the Spice Girls' bungled world tour. Mr. Boxmore. Hmm.

**Aug. 27**

It was a loaded, heavy Wednesday for those who were waiting. Unabridged Productions—a company that specializes in radio production, programming, operations and event marketing, established in 2007 second...ng to MTV—is now the official promoter of the resurrected gig.

By afternoon, news had it that tickets would be sold the next day through Ticketworld. I called the number and the lady said ticket prices were P2,000 and P1,000.

"Bale mamayang 5 p.m. a bukas ng 10 a.m. dadarna," she said. It was practically a run to the ticket booth.

By 6 p.m., regular and ultra seats were already available at P1,500 and P800. My friend rushed to Ticketworld Glorietta, but sadly, tickets selling was only until 7 p.m. Another one dashed to Ayala Town Center but it was also too late.

How did that happen? Were people holding vigils in the malls? I sense greedy scalpers. Even Beyoncé, Maroon 5 or Incubus didn't have this much impact.

The Ticketworld website also clogged until past midnight from 100 many users, as purchasing online was also a hassle.

**Aug. 28**

I already gave up on getting a media pass or being included in the guest list. Claro I wish (I was a groupie). But I knew I had to buy tickets by all means.

I woke up early in the morning to catch the opening of Ticketworld in Robinsons Place Manila...a big challenge, since I'm not a morning person. I clocked in at exactly 10.12 a.m., and there were already 12 people in line.

It was an interesting mix—students, yuppies, young mothers who didn't look the gig-going type. The line moved awfully slow, since there were credit card problems. So we resorted to small talk.

"Buti na lang wala akong pasok ngayon," said one guy to a school uniform.

"Hindi kaya marketing strategy 'yung free event then expanded venues to create the hype?" said a lady in a bank uniform.

"Nasaan kaya ang college ako, nag-leave sa dapat kasi para makapanood ng gig. Favorite ko talaga si Ely," replied a lady in corporate garb.

The two continued the chit-chat.

"Ting hindwal ko nawan, jehorto: a Sideward. Jeans ko enana yung mga dasu se mother ko sa Saudi pa."

"Gusa hindi naman magsili."

"Magkikita kami sila ng mga classmates ko noong high school."

Take note that those were total strangers to each other. I waited in line for an hour and a half, amused at how the people were suddenly socializing, then 30 heads moments with all better.

"Eraserheads 'The Reunion'" is not just the band's reunion. It is opening avenues for people to get together. The icons, former highschool buddies, college pals, classmates, officemates, parents and kids, families.

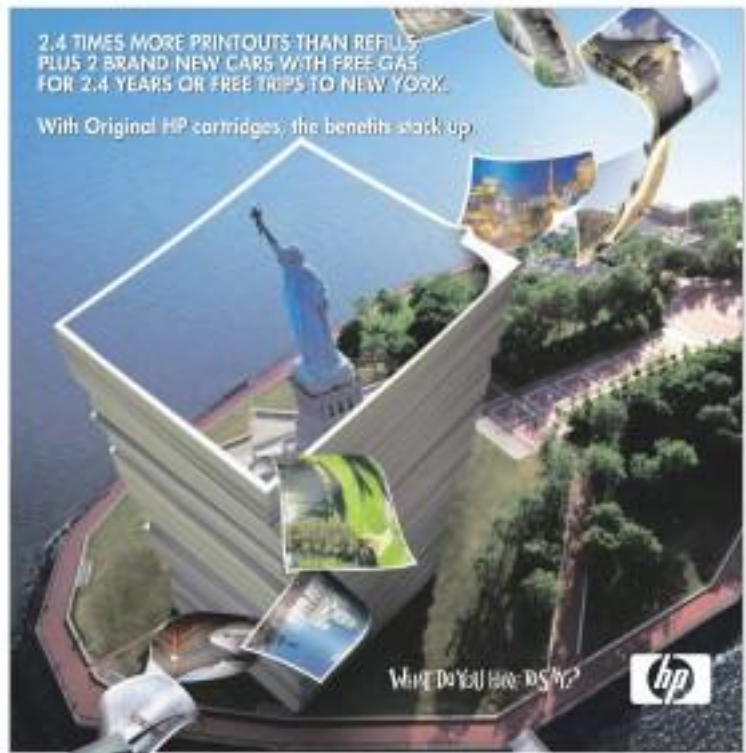
It's a wonderful reminder on how the Eraserheads made an impact in the '90s and how they are still able to unite people with their music until now.

As of press time, half of the 5,000 plus tickets were still available, according to Ticketworld.

Gates will open at 3 p.m. on Saturday and the gig will start at 8 p.m. Imagine what a reunion nightmare this entry would be for the police. But I am hoping things will turn out fine.

Heard from the end of the ticket line from a guy to deadlocks: "Magkita tayo ng hatoh sa Saturday baka bukas pa lang may nagcamping na sa iba."

Balumol!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WHAT'S INSIDE
Where angels fear to tread /F2

SATURDAY Special
Editor Nestor U. Torre • Assistant Editor Rito P. Avila

# Make way for Natalie, Anna—and a couple of perky canine comers

By Nestor U. Torre

MARTINEZ. Plays Stallone's sexy navigator in "Death Race."

JASON STATHAM HAS A NEW LEAD-ing lady in his latest action outing "Death Race." She's Natalie Martinez, a Cuban-American actress and model best known for her role as Michelle Miller on the MyNetworkTV telenovela, "Fashion House." She is also the "genius medical" foe Jet Li in Jennifer Lopez "Death Race" marks 23-year-old Natalie's feature debut. She plays Statham's sexy navigator Case, does some stunts, and even gets to drive a machine gun or two.

## Leading lady

Statham is impressed with his new leading lady. He starts off by stating the obvious: "She's smoking hot!" Then, unnerving those, he shares: "She has a real cool look in her that made her stand out where she auditioned. She came in and read with some other actresses—and she won the prize!"

Meanwhile, in "The House Bunny" funny girl Anna Faris shares as Shelley Darlington, a Playboy Bunny who teaches a group of awkward girls about the opposite sex—only to learn that what boys ultimately want is what's on the inside.

BLUDEL, PEREIRA, TAMILYN AND LIVELY. Reprise roles in sequel to "The Sisterhood of the Traveling Pants."

The combinations of seductive looks and comedic ability isn't easy to come by on TV, and movie screens, so Faris should enjoy a long and prosperous career in Tollywood's latest sexy comedienne.

For their part, Nicole Bradshaw, Annette Nowera, Blake Lively and Alexis Bledel reunite onscreen in "The Sisterhood of the Traveling Pants 2" as the lifelong best friends/sisters left in love with them years ago. All four actresses have done well since the original film was released, but they enjoyed shooting together so much that they cleared their schedules so they would work with each other again in the sequel.

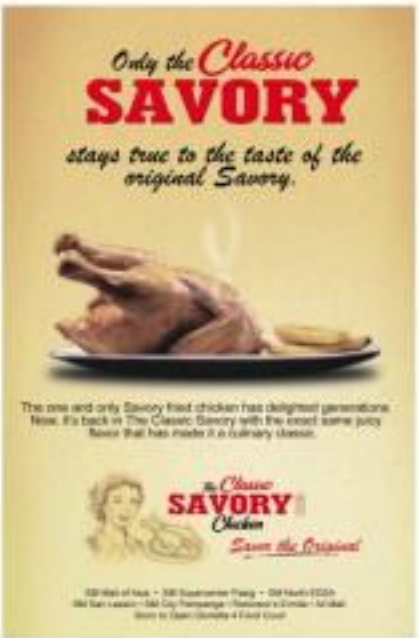
In addition, the film introduces four exciting new actors cast as the girls' "significant others." They are Michael Rady, Leonardo Nam, Jesse Williams and Nate Wisdom. Rady plays a charismatic Greek student, Nam is cast as a video geek, Williams is a cantankerous Lost, and Wisdom's character is Shakespeare-obsessed.

FIVE CANINE iterations of "Beverly Hills Chihuahua."

## Perky fair

Finally, "Beverly Hills Chihuahua" "stars" two-day bundles of perky fun and talent. The canine comedienne are cast as a pampered, disowned—but chihuahua named Chloe (voice of Drew Barrymore) and Papi (voiced by George Lopez), a rough-looking goody who falls head-over-paws for the fashionista chihuahua.

A valet and notary once once wanted his colleagues never to act with babies and animals for fear of being completely upstaged. Well, Chloe and Papi have "Beverly Hills Chihuahua" all to themselves—and they can teeny with the flies!




# Streaks of show biz light bring inspiration

By Rito P. Avila

GARCIA. "PDEA" cop scholar.

THE UNPREDICTABLE weather may have dampened my spirits, but the entertainment scene has been giving us good reasons to smile.

We've been relishing the quirky Sundance-type indies ("The Station Agent") that the Ayala Malls' cineplexes used to screen regularly for...we're glad that Robinsons Ioilo has been offering an alternative venue for nonmainstream productions and local indies.

## Intriguing

Recently, we were blown away by Arnold Teng and Roel Arcinpaureta's brilliantly disturbing "Confessional" (it stars one for film buffs). This week, Adolf Alix Jr.'s theatrically intriguing but technically flawed black-and-white drama, "Tuos Indistinct" is on view. Unfortunately, for every "Confessional," there's also a "Painkiller," "Mugit" or "Balandido." But, let's stay there and count our blessings.

On local TV, we're pleased to note that a good number of once mediocre shows on ABS-CBN's "Pinoy Dream Academy" finalists have exhibited an above average talent, and some "stars" have blossomed from ambitious dustbings into performing metas. Some exercises thereon don't wrap are questionable, but the overall bunch is nonetheless a big improvement over Wing Commanister's group.

Our top scholastic found this week (for her unique talent), Joy "Bugoy" Bugoy (a.k.a. Jocelyn Garcia) (astounding range!).

GUQTP-UTA "Gun Proud Mama," we found ourselves stunned when we caught Joys acting like one proud daughter to her irresponsible mother, comedienne Elizabeth Oropesa. The alternately hilarious and heartwarming episode revealed how much the "unlikely" pair loved each other unconditionally.

It was hard not to be won over by the unabashed chromosomes of affection. While Bugoy shared some magic and comic moments (she said she knelt down when she saw the Statue of Liberty for the first time because, well, she thought it was a homegrown replica of the Blessed Virgin Mary!), Joys versatil suddenly hug her mother—and with like a little girl!

# Special memories trigger warm feelings

By Bebs Cervantes

BROMYEL MY LOS ANGELES beats, Joji and Madeleine Gilles, were eager for me to connect with Filipino students involved in the popularization of Filipino cultural art forms in LA, like Gelo Francisco, who had formed a very impressive dance group in the City of Angels.

How small the world is, indeed. Just the night before, Jean Fega of Yolong Mapagsang" ranks have had e-mailed me about a cultural affair where she met Gelo, who she said was once my student. How come I couldn't recall him? Jean-Jean had provided him e-mail address, I clarified the question.

## Singing group

Gelo said he belonged to 3 of a kind, a singing group in Manila that included Annie Sepanosan and Bryan Salvador.

3 of a kind participated in

SPECIAL, F3

Over 70 rat-borne diseases identified to date:
Would you risk the plague?

RATS carry many potentially life-threatening diseases such as Murine Typhus, Dysentery, Salmonella, Bubonic Plague and Rabies. A staggering 1.6 million rats are estimated to be born each day. Each one is a potential carrier or vector for one or more of the 70 known rat-borne diseases identified so far. They jeopardize our health and should be considered a serious threat.

One such disease, Leptospirosis, occurs when leptospires harmful from rat urine and feces contaminate certain. Typically, this happens when contaminated water comes into contact with the mucous eyes, mouth and abrasions on our skin. It causes a wide range of symptoms which can easily be misdiagnosed. If left untreated, it can lead to kidney damage, meningitis, liver failure, and respiratory distress. In rare cases, death occurs.

Protect family and home with Bayer Advanced Racumin Rodent Control System from Bayer. Each Racumin product contains Coumarin-based which slowly kills rats so they won't develop "bait shyness" or associate it with danger.

Use Racumin Tracking Powder, which is effective in bait and also doubles as a tracking powder to help identify where rats dwell. Deal with mice as well as rats with Bayer Advanced Racumin Ready-Made Bait ready-to-use fragrant rice which spread living rodents' bad preamble. And for utmost convenience, Racumin Paste in easy-to-use sachets can be placed wherever and whenever you suspect rats threaten your home.

Bayer Environmental Science

Hotline number 721-8883
Email: sales.support@racumin.com.ph

# Where angels fear to tread

By Nestor U. Torre

SHOW BUSINESS IS SUCH A tough, competitive world that only handy adults should dare to work in it. It's literally the place where angels (should) fear to tread, for fear of having their pure, white wings dirtied or clipped. Children are angels of sorts, so they shouldn't give a career in show business a really safe hands.

Realistically speaking, however, there are juvenile roles to play and if adult subjects portrayed there, the results would be hilarious instead of severely politically stabilize. So, kids—and their "stage parents" along with them—are encouraged to act, sing, dance and endorse products in the tough, competitive world of entertainment.

**Reality**

Since that's the reality what we need to do is not to prevent children from becoming performers, but to figure out how they can be shielded from the industry's more chronic and dangerous.

The initial threat could come

WHERE TO

## AT THE CINEMAS

| | | | | |
|---|---|---|---|---|
| GLORIETTA 1 | 1 GRAVEDANCER | 2 DEATH RACE | 3 A VERY SPECIAL LOVE | 4 FOR THE FIRST TIME |
| GLORIETTA 4 | 1 WALL-E | 2 GRAVEDANCER | 3 DEATH RACE | |
| | 4 BIG STAN | 5 STAR WARS: THE CLONE WARS | 6 FOR THE FIRST TIME | 7 SMOTHER |
| GREENBELT 1 | 1 DEATH RACE | | 2 FOR THE FIRST TIME | |
| GREENBELT 2 | 1 SMOTHER | | 2 DEATH RACE | |
| | 3 WALL-E | 4 BIG STAN | 5 FOR THE FIRST TIME | |
| ALABANG TOWN CENTER | 1 FOR THE FIRST TIME | | 2 DEATH RACE | |
| | 3 GRAVEDANCER | 4 FOR THE FIRST TIME | 5 SMOTHER | |
| AYALA CENTER CEBU | 1 FOR THE FIRST TIME | 2 STAR WARS: THE CLONE WARS | 3 DEATH RACE | 4 HAROLD & KUMAR 2 |
| MARKET! MARKET! | 1 FOR THE FIRST TIME | | 2 CORIOLANUS | |
| | 3 DEATH RACE | 4 GRAVEDANCER | 5 SMOTHER | |
| TRINOMA | 1 FOR THE FIRST TIME | 2 FOR THE FIRST TIME | 3 SMOTHER | 4 GRAVEDANCER |
| | 5 WALL-E | 6 BIG STAN | 7 DEATH RACE | |

## AT THE MALLS

CINEMAS HOTLINE NUMBERS:

Greenbelt: 723 7777
Greenbelt 3: 757 0888 to 89
Alabang Town Center: 845 2782; 771 7888
Ayala Center Cebu: (032) 412 2345 loc. 228
Market! Market!: 356 7777
Trinoma: 441 3000

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# Special memories . . .

From page E1

"Nelian and Strength," a musical documentation of the Cosmopolitan Church. That was where Cielo and I met.

Madeleine and Jed supported their boss's dream for Joan, Cielo and me. I asked them to make 10 commercial dreams. Blinding lights.

As soon as we settled down, the executive moved boldly. I was progressively dropping names that would trigger and enhance our stories. So, while we talked about Tsileng Maunggong' audition and Yoga's acquaintanceship Cielo Pior and Vice Ganda were also mentioned. Cielo's Manila Times "Spotters" and her boyfriend, Enzo Treadad, name remembered, as well.

Joan remembered her Manila visit and how the beloved Queen of Philippine 'musicville, Eraj dela Cruz, changed the direction of her life.

Eraj frankly told Joan that, if she wanted to stand out in the variety show 'Philippine-Insomnia," she had better learn Hiligaynon songs.

The incomparable diva then taught Joan "Dalid Ilo Ni" and "Magsinta Ay Di Biro." When Joan sang the first song a few days later, the crowd sounding was from the elated Filipino audience! She became a popular star.

She loves the Philippines and calls it her second home. We were entertained with the nostalgic stories we shared with her that night.

PAGE. "Ruby changeling life."


SHANG CINEPLEX

1 WALL-E
12:30, 2:45, 5:00, 7:15, 9:30

2 FOR THE FIRST TIME
12:15, 2:30, 4:50, 7:10, 9:30

3 STAR WARS
2:10, 4:30, 6:40, 9:00

4 DEATH RACE
2:00, 4:30, 7:00, 9:30

SMOTHER PG-13
12:30, 2:50, 5:00, 7:30, 9:30

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GALLERIA
1 DEATH RACE
2 FOR THE FIRST TIME
3 GRAVE DANGERS
4 BROTHER
5 BIG STAN
6 A VERY SPECIAL LOVE
7 THE MUMMY 3
DOBOL TROBOL
8 Indefilme: TAMBOLISTA
9 ESKANDALO
10 WALL • E
THE CLONE WARS

MOONRISE FILMFEST 2008
Catch moonrise environmental documentary film fest on AUGUST 27 to September at Robinsons Movieworld ERMITA

ERMITA
1 DOBOL TROBOL
2 WALL • E
THE MUMMY 3
3 BROTHER
4 BIG STAN
5 FOR THE FIRST TIME
6 GRAVE DANGERS
7 DEATH RACE
8 ESKANDALO
9 MOONRISE FILM FESTIVAL

METRO EAST
1 BIG STAN
2 FOR THE FIRST TIME
3 DOBOL TROBOL
4 WALL • E
THE CLONE WARS
5 GRAVE DANGERS
6 THE MUMMY 3
FOR THE FIRST TIME
7 DEATH RACE
8 A VERY SPECIAL LOVE

NOVALICHES
1 DEATH RACE
2 FOR THE FIRST TIME
3 DOBOL TROBOL
4 TOROTOT

PIONEER
1 BROTHER
2 FOR THE FIRST TIME
3 GRAVE DANGERS
4 DEATH RACE

Big Screen Blowout
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STA. ROSA
1 FOR THE FIRST TIME
2 JOURNEY to the CENTER of the EARTH
3 TOROTOT
4 DOBOL TROBOL

LIPA
1 THE X-FILES
2 FOR THE FIRST TIME
3 DOBOL TROBOL
4 MY SASSY GIRL

DASMARINAS
1 TOROTOT
2 DOBOL TROBOL
3 DEATH RACE
4 FOR THE FIRST TIME

IMUS
1 DEATH RACE
2 TOROTOT
3 FOR THE FIRST TIME
4 DOBOL TROBOL

ANGELES
1 MY SASSY GIRL
2 FOR THE FIRST TIME
3 ALTERED
4 DEATH RACE

STARMILLS
1 A VERY SPECIAL LOVE
2 FOR THE FIRST TIME
3 DOBOL TROBOL
4 MY SASSY GIRL
5 ALTERED
6 DEATH RACE

BACOLOD
1 FOR THE FIRST TIME
2 ALTERED
3 FOR THE FIRST TIME
4 WALL • E / DOBOL TROBOL
5 THE X-FILES
6 TOROTOT / LOST in BEIJING

ILOILO
1 THE X-FILES
2 FOR THE FIRST TIME
3 TOROTOT
4 BOGUE
5 LOST in BEIJING
6 WALL • E / DOBOL TROBOL

AFTER 21 years, Egge Diana-Aprood (center), founder of the Philippine Gala Inquirer, laughs with original staff (Ms. Ma (from left) Fe Zamora, Lorly Jimenez-Magsanoc, Eggie, the author and Belinda Cunanan.

# Toast to 'little' magazine that could

AS USUAL, THE GUESTS came late. The party was set at 7:30 p.m., but at 10 p.m., they were still nowhere in sight.

The caterer to entrée, Belinda Cunanan, found herself in a quandary: to eat, or not to eat, to snack. She was followed by Lorly Jimenez-Magsanoc of U.S. and Ms. Zamora, who arrived at 11 p.m. Moments later, Eggie Apostol, with her trademark Dipsea Dog Shirting on the base, quiet cable was a walking duck sent by Jacie Ochoaco, chief of staff of the First Gentleman, Jose Miguel Arroyo, and who broke from Secretary Ermita's Wine Cellars.

**Potluck party**

With myself and retired Lt. Gen. Carlos Cancinan, it was a midnight potluck party for six to commemorate the Aug. 21, 1983, assassination of Benigno "Ninoy" Aquino Jr. The get-together was also meant to celebrate the 25th year of Mr. & Ms. Special Edition, the little black-and-white magazine that chronicled Aquino's funeral and the outrage that followed his death.

A tidy dozen memory lane was in order. Belinda fired off the first question: Who did you publish Mr. & Ms? "Because nobody published the photos of Ninoy's funeral," Tita Eggie replied. The honorary aspect of it never crossed her mind. It was purely sentimental, she added.

And how did Lorly get into the picture? She answered, "I went to her house and asked her to edit the magazine." To shake the dictator's piercing eyes, she put up a sign—"LM Guanzon"—on the door of the magazine's editorial office.

From the so-called "incomplete press," Mr. & Ms Special Edition (Pre-Anti-set and Reconciliation), Jose Miguel Arroyo and Imelda magazine remain. They were on the front lines of the struggle against the dictatorship.

At 1:30 a.m., we raised our glasses to toast Tita Eggie for her courage in publishing a magazine that gave the country a voice loud enough to lastly topple a dictator.

Join the Manila Standard Lifestyle Loop Manila-Dix Nine-Day Photo workshop on Sept. 6, and the Batanes Photo Safari on Dec. 26-29. E-mail manilastandard@yahoo.com, or call 0999.176.7.

STREET SMART
Randy Santaguerra

## Tribute to Batanes

DEEPLY TOUCHED BY THE BEAUTY of the Batanes islands, eight local artists called the Galeri group, will hold an art exhibit at the Metropolitan Museum of Manila representing their awe at the islands' sweeping landscapes, serenity and history. Galeri group members are Angelito Bautista, Arnold Limcoco Dans, Alfred Galicano, Felipe Mayuga, Jaime Wapda, Aaca Pamugpis, Tito Sanchez and Justice Lukvan Sining.

Titled "Idiomos Batanes," the exhibit will open on Sept. 4 and will run until Jan. 10, 2009. Lectures on Batanes' historic stone houses will also be held at the museum, along with drawing and painting sessions. For details, call Evelyn Manalo at 523-1317.

MONTAGE

"PAG-IBIG" by Arnold Limcoco Dans.

**Penelope and MTX**

Tiered wallflowers, Penelope and the MTX channel recently rolled out a new source of tension and morale. The Penelope Sunday concert at SM Megamall was transformed into an '80s time warp when the new line was introduced to the public. Hosts were Penelope Club makeovers Melissa Ricks, Mel Evans, Elmira Balagot and Kiara Legarda-Sanz, and MTX DJs Andrei Felix and Jilkie.

Perfect like Saturday organs, boom boxes and cassette tapes were encouraged—but this time, an arch sound beats like lovelies and text. The Penelope/MTX hunt is available at all Penelope locations and select outlets.

LAZY Suzie worked your \ Herald Soundcloud stones

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Get the chance to learn from your musical idols in Soundfest Soundcloud 2008. The biggest and most exciting college band competition in the country set not only gives you a shot at fame, but also equips its finalists with the tools to become successful. Its less than the country's leading names in music serve as their mentors—in 2007, they included the Sandwich, Brownout, Sugarfree and Hale band.

Soundfest Soundcloud is open to all unsigned bands with three to five members who are currently enrolled in a university or college. Bands must be sent to Promotion Direct Media Group, Unit 1005, Ashmar Center Condominium, Ayala Ave., Greenhills, on or before Sept. 5. For other requirements, visit www.soundcloud.com.ph.

**Nickelodeon sizzles**

New episodes and shows make September sizzle on the Nickelodeon Channel! Sept. 1 (Monday) at 6:15 p.m., "Frankenstein's Cat" tells the story of a unique friendship between two lonely souls, a little girl and her cat. Then at 6:30 p.m., "Fanboy & Chum Chum" follows the adventures of two best friends who love comic books, candy and all things awesome.

Also premiering on Sept. 1 is "Back at the Barnyard" at 7 p.m. Otis the cow and Pip the mouse are back with their barnyard buddies in a new season filled with hilarious adventures. Then at 7:30 p.m., "Ni Hao, Kai-Lan" follows the adventures of a young girl who lives with her family in Shanghai, China.

**Avril Lavigne rocks**

Canadian pop-rock princess Avril Lavigne shows how hot she can get—or sweat at the Araneta Coliseum on Sept. 2 with her "The Best Damn Tour" show, featuring the biggest hits, including "Girlfriend," "When You're Gone" and "Hot," all culled from her multi-platinum-selling third album and Philippine performance over the most same costumes, sets, backup singers and dancers utilized on the UK and Canada legs of her latest concert tour. Call 911.5555.

# Where angels fear to tread

Even the juvenile talent's own "stage parents." Some of them have questionable motives for pushing their children in front of the microphones or cameras.

If there's poor, they don't make enough money to they get it just from their shows, more performing opportunities, they can stop working and their children could do the earning for them by performing.

**Disturbing phenomenon**

Some children may agree to do this out of their love for their families. But the child performer is an unruly's benchwarmer is still a disturbing phenomenon. Children should be given the time to play and grow, and shouldn't be prematurely burdened with the responsibility of making money for their parents and siblings.

The "exploitation" of the performer is further enabled by the fact that, for some of them, dreaming their children into show business is one way of making up for their own failed stellar aspirations.

Even if the child performer has parents whose hands are screwed on straight, he will has to wrestle out for the dangers lurking in the show biz trade itself. Those fantastic money opportunities who are out to exploit teens and children young talents.

Work schedules in the entertainment world are also problematic. Although young talents today are protected by a number of legal stipulations and limitations, the fact remains that long shooting and taping schedules, as well as lack of sleep, not into entertainment study and play hours, and could have self on their health.

Some shows let people have acted that, many child stars grew up into adolescent "no-body" disappeared syndrome. Vilma Santos, Nora Aunor, Nike Muhlach and Alex Aquino.

When could account for this "fall"? Hormone nights, stress, an inability to walk it not even the fact that child actors took cradles her spotlights—there are some of the factors "blamed" for the phenomenon of the centrally challenged rockstar.

**Accomplices**

Even more distressingly child talents are sometimes expected to exude adult behavior and language that could throw them for a loop. They don't have to contend with the hectic and highly competitive show biz atmosphere that could tear and spoil them long before their time.

Some child stars have managed to "survive" their stint in show biz relatively unscathed, but others have been severely compromised by the dangers inherent in the system. So, if you have a precocious child wannabe, make sure he's guided and protected as he embarks on his quest for it.

# SATURDAY Special

## Pete's abiding presence

By Boots Avecilla Roa

IT IS A YEAR AFTER MY HUSband Pete's demise (Aug. 9, 2007) from a 10-year stroke that left his left arm and legs paralyzed. The stroke was exacerbated by diabetes, glaucoma, a hip fracture and a six-month hour with gastric, lung and brain cancer. In typical tongue-in-cheek fashion, Pete claimed a "homebase" on major afflictions.

It is 5 a.m., about the time I would take Pete's blood pressure and sugar scans, give him his insulin shot and administer his first oral tablets for the day, to be repeated until 12 hours. We would maximize the hour by saving our invocation jointly to his patron, St. "Padre" Pio, and my favorite St. Thomas of the Child Jesus. Then came the "Seattle results" to force-feed him his first meal of the day. In his words, he felt like a blackboard as everything he ate tasted like chalk.

It is a difficult act on my part, writing this in what used to be Pete's virtual hospital unit on the ground floor of our home. Everything about this room recalls Pete's final struggles.

### Act of sharing

I feared this act of sharing would define my personal telenovela moment—when one does would break and the tears would enjoy like a swung raptism. Over the past year, I had cautioned them, by an act of surrender to God's Will, no matter that I could not always understand the events that ensued, the family Pete did his most that he would host me in the Great Party in the Divine Family, if only to avoid the daunting task of arranging for my funeral services.)

But fears are always exaggerated. Here I sit, poised, broken, but smoothed, halfway through this article that would yet be my widow's catharsis, the "mother" document that Pete has led me to over the past eight, whispering to me in my dreams, playfully stroking my hair, or gently unplug me to write this.

Pete must be taking this now calm run seriously: interviewer, lobbyist, "event planner," producer and director—his arc and the loved ones he left behind. Everything that has happened the last year seems to be part of a Grand Design that the angels have conjured up—with authority, of course, from the Divine Master.

### Greatest lessons

But Pete's greatest lessons to me about grief and healing have been embodied in the love and comfort of my children, Jack and Russell Carson, Jam, Chiqui and Bob, Ito Pato, Bea and Michelle Evandro, my grandchildren, extended family members and friends. They have filled the void that Pete left. The thought that he now rejoins the Beatific Union does not still have to struggle for that the tears on my pillow. Many times words, they have taught me "validated love": to lift pain and emptiness to the highest level and thereby transform them into gifts to the Lord.

The renowned pastor and psychologist Kenneth C. Haugk has also been a constant companion in my journey through grief and healing via his books, the last of which delves into rebuilding and remembering. He has taught me that there is no prescribed period for grieving. And that the best and fastest way to heal is to help others

BOOTS with daughter Chiqui Roa-Puno, grandson Randy Roa-Puno and sister-in-law Nina Roa as they prepare to bring the urn containing Pete's (inset) ashes back to the crypt.

heal, by being there for them, by just listening and making one's presence felt, and by sharing insights when solicited.

### Mandate

Aside from finally, my most soothing balm has been the work at hand for Pete's PEACE Foundation, which my children and I set up at the instance of my son-in-law, Rep. Rodolfo Plaza of Antipolo. As Pete had requested during his final moments, we have coordinated a three-fold mandate: the cure of chronic patients, continuing broadcast media education and propagation of devotion to St. Padre Pio.

We have so far assisted about 25 ailing patients through (a) reimbursement to Philhealth. On the television end, we are now onto the second seminar-workshop, two radio broadcasters, in cooperation with the Employees ng Bayan-Isaiaw ng Filipinas, Metro Manila Chapter and Elohe television. We have also guaranteed six-target runs of Senator Tessie's "Pedro Pio" with Ricky Davao in the title role, with assistance from the Ortigas Group of Companies and the Sts. Peter and Paul Church.

I think friends who have given of their time and collective wisdom as PEACE board members: Dr. Abelardo Aquino, Fred delos Reyes, NUT Rolney Carballo, Pete's brother Ed Roa, Raffy Evangelista, Jose Mari Chan and Blandina Yuan-Perez Macedo.

The following widows have also given me the finest examples of quiet strength and fortitude: Pompee Presidente Cory Aquino, Divina de la Fuente and Paine Rand, Aurora Rivera, Gloria Rivera and most recently, Loma

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LOVEBUCKET BY ELIZABETH CHONGUO

KIKO MACHINE BY MARK ARCENA

BEN BY DARRIN WILTON

## DAILY CROSSWORD

ACROSS
1 Action hero
6 Ignition
11 Christmas Carol, e.g.
15 Up the aisle
19 Blood related
20 Make amends
21 Make money
22 Hoop
23 Abbr. text
24 Observations
25 Carpet pattern
27 Mediterranean
31 Mardi Gras wear
32 Hanging
33 Hotel
34 Chandelier or doll
35 Preparing an egg
36 Life stories
38 Wet, muddy
39 Drum or drum partner
41 Temptations
42 Western wear
45 Part of SALT
46 Defamatory or libelous
48 Wheel alignment measurement
50 Brazilian port
51 Nasty piece
53 Centered at the base
55 Rose of Guns N' Roses
56 Libation
57 "Wayne's WORLD" co-star
60 Hawaiian dish
61 Pastors
63 City on the Seine's Right Bank
64 Type of storm

DOWN
1 Plagiarize
2 Pilgrimage to Mecca
3 Is not well
4 Computer op.
5 Hematological tool: Abbr.
6 Shopper's stop
7 Offshoot
8 Former Philly NFL QB Ron
9 Nauseating response
10 Artificial intelligence
11 Wishful thinking outfit
12 Mid-wrestling sport
13 Mid-meeting sport
14 Mid-cheering sport
16 Kingdom Tex.
17 Mix of colors
18 Pioneer Radiohead techie
29 Buffalo
31 Foundation
33 Hotel room
34 Hotel room amenity
36 Pitcher's ace
37 Dragon Herald
38 Hitchhiker's thumber
39 Bank job
40 Hatfields rival
41 Grinds
42 Down-home ol' Tyrone or Anthony
43 Pitcher's ace
44 Dragon Herald
47 Hitchhiker's thumber
49 Bank job
52 Travel channel?
54 Enjoy movies
58 Decoration after touchdown
59 Snapping, as synapses
60 Laugh loudly
62 Mexico
63 Take off

Friday's Puzzle Solved

By Barry Silk
8/16/08
McLean, VA

## HOROSCOPE

BY FRANCIS DRAKE

## CONCEPTIS SU DOKU

**Conceptis SuDoKu** By Dave Green

| | | | | | | | | |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| | 3 | | | | | 4 | | |
| | | 2 | 1 | 6 | | | | |
| | 5 | | | | | 7 | 2 | 6 |
| | | | | | | | 6 | |
| | 6 | 5 | | 4 | | 2 | 3 | |
| | 7 | | | | | | | |
| 7 | 8 | 1 | | | | | 9 | |
| | | | | 2 | 5 | 8 | | |
| | | 9 | | | | | 4 | |

Difficulty Level ★★★★

**HOW TO PLAY SU DOKU**

Fill the grid so that every column, every row and every 3x3 box contains the digits 1 to 9.
Visit and print lots of www.sudoku.com

Answer to previous puzzle

| | | | | | | | | |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| 4 | 3 | 8 | 7 | 5 | 1 | 2 | 9 | 6 |
| 9 | 1 | 2 | 3 | 6 | 4 | 7 | 8 | 5 |
| 7 | 5 | 6 | 8 | 9 | 2 | 3 | 1 | 4 |
| 3 | 2 | 7 | 5 | 1 | 6 | 8 | 4 | 9 |
| 5 | 4 | 1 | 9 | 7 | 8 | 6 | 2 | 3 |
| 6 | 8 | 9 | 2 | 4 | 3 | 1 | 5 | 7 |
| 1 | 7 | 5 | 6 | 2 | 9 | 4 | 3 | 8 |
| 2 | 9 | 3 | 4 | 8 | 7 | 5 | 6 | 1 |
| 8 | 6 | 4 | 1 | 3 | 5 | 9 | 7 | 2 |

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# Making beautiful music with Tita King

By Nestor U. Torre

WE JOIN MANY OTHERS IN MOURNING the death of National Artist Lucrecia Kasilag, 96, worked with her on theater projects as the CCP head and admired her command of ethnic instrumentation in her many compositions for the Bulaanda Trans-directed productions she starred in.

Our admiration for Tita King turned into fondness when she directed "Ang Pagong Bayani," a musical on GMA7, for the Bayanihan National Dance Company with the second grande dame of Philippine music composing and arranging the songs in the production (Above is by Ricardo Sabido).

## Education

Behind-the-scenes for the show were held at the Philippine Women's University, where Tita King was on top of musical activities and education for many years. We looked forward to such rehearsal because we liked working with the "unshowbiz" Ms Kasilag.

Despite her advanced age and many medical problems, Tita King not just worked hard on the production's musical components, but also guided the other artists in the show in coming up with their version best.

She looked frail in her oversized wheelchair, but her energy and dynamism push-pushed her many refinements. Taking her cue from our theatrical notes, she looked out, subset to the show's resolution, singers and dancers—particularly rewarding our motion, as it were.

KASILAG. Energy and dynamism.

## Dramatic effect

Since she was on home turf, her energetic musical direction had a dramatic effect on the artists she wheedled and cajoled into coming up with their best work, and "Ang Pagong Bayani" benefited greatly from her spunky musical mentorship.

Tita King passed away at age 89, after having lived a full, creative life in the service of her musical muse. May all other artists derive inspiration from her fine example, and tirelessly devote their lives, not to self-advancement, but to serving their art and its audience.

The lesson that Ms Kasilag's life and career teach us partly needs to be relearned today, when so many so-called artists do lazy, inferior, imitative or self-serving work.

In particular, her focus on ethnic instrumentations needs to be mastered by younger musical artists, because it more organically and authentically studies the deepest roots of Asian and Filipino musicality.

As Tita King's beguiling and numerous compositions proved, ethnic instrumentation needn't remain at the folk level—with an inspired artist at the podium, it can encompass and vividly a world of musical possibilities, and play second fiddle to nobody.

# Finding fulfillment

RECENTLY, WE MET A RICH man who gifted himself and his family with expensive things. But, he roamed other people with interesting lack of consideration and concern. Although he had many opportunities to help others, he was more concerned with his own welfare. He was burdened with the complexity of maintaining an opulent lifestyle, but it brought more stress.

In contrast, we spoke with his caretaker who was paid a monthly salary and had a program that fed and touched our

## Lotus Pond

*R. Valencia and S. Rivera*

to neighborhood kids. His caretaker excitedly talked about how he had made friends with his young beneficiaries, who would call out to him every time he walked by.

Before feeding work with

FINDING 61

# Pete's...

From page B1

Television. The latter has expressed that she, too, has plans for a "Kuh Ledesma Foundation" for cancer patients, to keep his legacy alive.

Together, from corruption of faith and scrounge relationship's abiding presence and that of their loved ones. Their lives affirm what the inspiring Helen Keller once said: "What we have once enjoyed and deeply loved we can never lose, for all that we love deeply becomes a part of us."

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NOW SHOWING

# KC's ascent to movie queendom hits a snag

By Rito P. Asilo

**"For The First Time"**
D: Joyce Bernal
S: Richard Gutierrez, KC Concepcion

WE EXPECTED TO GET DAZZLED BY KC Concepcion's first big-screen outing. After all, we've heaped well-deserved praise on her every move ever since she decided to follow her famous parents' footsteps in the entertainment industry—from her many contributions ("Wowie") to the "Boomerang Sessa" album to her well-calibrated TV and recording talents.

So, with all the highfalutin hype and hoopla surrounding the wavering beauty's serendipitous jump to the big screen, and with the usually reliable Joyce Bernal back in a genre that brought her acclaim, we were primed to see something worth all the mush-coated hard work—because those hits Viva Big Thing doesn't deserve anything less. Alas, for the first time, KC's ascent to the show biz throne has hit a snag.

Real estate executive, Sophia "Via" Sandoval (Concepcion), is overworked but tender-appreciated by her emotional-ly-distant father and boss, Jomi (Phillip Salvador). To take a breather from the pressures of work and finally tie parks her bags, and stick her annoying nanny in tow, she heads off to Santorini, a spectacularly picturesque Greek island in the southern Aegean Sea—only to find herself conveniently entangled with infamous playboy, Seth Villanueva (Richard Gutierrez), the disarmingly handsome former flame of many of her closest friends.

**Overt hostility**

Via's overt hostility toward Seth instantly lists the flirtatious bachelor's interest. Who knew that a pinpoint stare and a dip in the crystal-clear Aegean waters were enough to thaw Via's frozen heart? Good thing she knows how to swim, or this rom-com would have ended in tragedy, right? So cinematic fate would have it, love blooms literally overnight. Unfortunately, happily-ever-afters don't come easily, even in fairy-tale heaven. Does Seth and Via's romance stand a chance? One guess.

Let's make this clear: KC's participation in the movie is the best thing about it. She's definitely nowhere more daring than her antagonist mom Diana once was (flit and the screen kisses are a far cry from the jeans-on-the-beach and no-bra attitude Sonia in Bernal's teenage heyday), and she has Sharon's indefinable screen presence—with acting chops to boot. And most than TV recording or the legitimate stage, she has found in the movies a medium she can truly thrive in—but not the right project.

The production has a number of glaring problems, it's weak script being foremost on the list. To screenwriters, the production relies heavily on clichés. But, too much unoriginality robs the film of believability.

The characters' motivations are sketchy. We don't understand Pia's overwhelming anger toward Seth, when even the ex-girlfriends he allegedly beat only have nice words for him. There, there's the incomprehensibly unwitting anger of Pia's father. For all his veiled pronouncements about Pia's unreliability and incompetence, why does over the rules of the family business to pour 25-year-old daughters if you have a more dependable older son (Ti Yuchenko)?

**Empathy**

There's no doubt that KC and Richard make a beautiful pair, but on the big screen, their so-called chemistry doesn't ignite so much fireworks as we thought it would. Somehow, their story just doesn't draw viewers in and win their empathy. Plus, a "Archaeology" make-up scene in the final act is barely and awkwardly staged.

Bernal is known for her wit and comic sensibility. Unfortunately, you don't get much of that here. Moreover, one of the movie's biggest come-ons is its exotic locale—but half the time, all you see are bland images of that exotic European tourist hotspot, and that's a shame.

GUTIERREZ AND CONCEPCION. The beautiful pair doesn't generate enough romantic sparks.

# Anita Linda goes to her first international film fest

LINDA. Plays title role in "Ikhnia."

LOS ANGELES—ANITA LINDA IS "very nervous and in the same time, very happy as he ends as to present Adobo' in Toronto," director Adolfo Alix Jr. recently told us via e-mail about his and the actors' attendance in the Toronto International Film Festival (TIFF). "It's her first trip to an international film festival, so we hope she enjoys it. We also plan to take her to other film fests where 'Adobo' will be screened this year."

Hi-Constitution and viewers can check out Alix's film starring Anita playing a woman whose solitary observance of her 80th birthday leads to a reflection on family, society and relationships, on Saturday, Sept. 1, 6 p.m. at MBC 4; Sunday, Sept. 7, 9:15 p.m. at MBC 2; and Saturday, Sept. 13, 3 p.m. at ABC 5.

The three As—Alix (who's 83 in real life), Adobo and producer Arlene Ferrolo, who will be in Toronto from Sept. 4 to 9—will grace the first two screenings of "Adobo," which is part of the Contemporary World Cinema program. Our sales agent, Beau Basque and Sylvain Tess of Visit Films, will also be there," Adobo volunteered.

**Rewarding experience**

"I'm very excited to see how people would respond to 'Adobo,'" the 29-year-old writer-director continued. "It's a special film for me because working on it was a very rewarding experience for everybody. Having Anita Linda in our lead actress was truly a pleasure. It's not without flaws in her. When Brad Pitter, Aniston and I decided to do this movie, we felt that 'Fun Alice (Alix) deserved a film that would share her as her best. She has been part of the industry for a long time. She worked with the country's best directors—Lamberto Avellana, Gerry de Leon, Lino Brocka and Ishmael Bernal. As a young director, it was a learning experience to work with a legend like her."

"Adobo" also stars Iza Calzado (who was directing Tom Lazarus' "The Echo" in Toronto during the TIFF last year), Dexie Bautista, Paulo Hawaii, Angeli Bayani, Jessie Bayron, Jason Abalos, Kenneth Cranpus and Arnold Reyes. The film is the seventh feature from the prolific filmmaker since his debut feature, "Dismal," which was screened in various film festivals and won the Philippine critics' Gawad Urian in the 2007 Academy Awards' Best Foreign Language Film category. Since 2006, Adolfo also directed "Bahia," "Bambolera," "Hari," "Barcelona" and "Daybreak."

Of his first participation in what has grown to become one of the world's major festivals, the Makati native said, "We're happy to have the international premiere of Adobo at the TIFF after opening the 2008 Cinemalaya Philippine Independent Film Festival. It's my first time to have a movie screened in Toronto, although as a co-producer, two of my films were featured there before—Carlos Siguion-Reyna's 'Balagtas: May Dalawang Buto' in 2000 (which was one of the selections in the festival's People's Choice Awards) and Gil Portes' 'Mga Munting Tinig' in 2002."

Adolfo, a major cool kinds goal-tutes with a degree in mass communications from the Pamantasan ng Lungsod ng Maynila, shared that he's also looking forward to watching films in the Canadian event.

On the last Lino Brocka's "Sapon Sa Bagi Sa Studio" being featured in the TIFF's "Dialogue: Talking With Directors" program, Adolfo said: "I think every Filipino filmmaker looks up to Brocka. He paved the way for the rest of us. I admire the honesty of his films and how he cared for the welfare of everybody on the set, as well as those in the film industry. He fought for what he believed in." Associate Prince Clarence highlighted in the TIFF is Denis Murakami's short "Sirko" is an official selection in the Vanguard program.

**Tribute**

Adolfo revealed his own cinematic tribute to Brocka. "Right now we're in production of 'Adobo,' a road 'till I'm working with Maya Manila, which is inspired by Ishmael Bernal's 'Manila by Night' and Brocka's 'Jaguar.' Both stories will be included in 'Pedro Bernal.' I'm doing the re-telling of 'Jaguar.' I see some of Brocka's films before I started working on the project, and I felt that his 'Sisa' stories—including 'Bayan Ko'—are truly timeless. The issue he tackled then are still relevant now. He made simple films, but their messages still ring loud and clear."

*E-mail rmpasilo_2005@yahoo.com, and read his blog, "The Pinoy Reporter," on http://blogs.inquirer.net/reporterspot.*

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## ONLY IN HOLLYWOOD

*Ruben V. Nepales*

# Action remake runs like a videogame

By Nicolai Rave

DESPITE ITS SUBPAR of flying bullets, explosions and car crashes, the action flick, "Death Race," is purely mild compared to the original version. In 1975's "Death Race 2000," which starred David Carradine and Sylvester Stallone, drivers gained points for running over pedestrians—giving new meaning to the term "spectator sport."

**Gratuitous violence**

If you have a hankering for mayhem and gratuitous violence, however, today's "Death Race" will still satisfy it but enough blood, broken bones and exhaust fumes for half a dozen more car race/action movies.

STATHAM. Plays a former racecar driver wrongfully accused of killing his wife.

Directed by Paul W.S. Anderson, the actioner stars Jason Statham and, wonder of wonders, Joan Allen. What the Oscar-nominated and Tony Award-winning actress is doing here is anyone's guess, but her presence certainly adds a certain cachet to the proceedings.

You don't really expect much from a movie with Anderson's name on it, but this film manages to be several degrees better than his usual work. It's still a B movie, but at least, it's one of the more enjoyable ones—where crashes and explosions are satisfyingly big, and fight scenes are lovingly choreographed.

Unlike "Death Race 2000," however, the latest version is unlikely to achieve classic cult status; it doesn't have the black humor and satire of the former. What "Death Race" is, in essence, is a videogame with cinematic pretensions.

**Economy**

The movie takes place in 2012, America, where the economy is in shambles, crime is rampant, and prisons are owned by private corporations. Statham is Jensen Ames, a former racecar driver who gets framed for the murder of his wife.

The prison he's sent to is a subterranean fiefdom overseen by Warden Hennessey (Joan Allen), who makes a huge profit from sponsoring the Death Race, where prisoners race each other to the death, with the goal of winning one of prizes after winning five races.

The story is negligible since all you really care about in the race, which runs like a videogame.

# Finding fulfillment

Turn page 9A

his rich employer, he had already helped many kids in the neighborhood he previously lived in, in dire straits, he and his wife would secretly divert budget to accommodate their little guests. Thus, they would all sing "Bambol, Hariboi" (which means, share the nation of the Supreme Being). He was happy to share his home and meager resources. It gave him satisfaction. This was how he found true happiness.

In this situation, we see two men who came from different sectors of our society. But, from the spiritual point of view, the employer is the poorer man, because he couldn't share himself with others. His world is small, and his heart is hard.

Great sages say that wealth and resources are eternal. They can be used for different purposes, good or evil—and it's up to us to choose which. We can find fulfillment from being true caretakers of the Supreme Being's resources.